







258

African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

January • February 1993

Volume 46

Number 1

Strictly Business — Your Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704 - phone 409-839-4725. Individual - \$15, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$17; Commercial USA - \$25; Commercial International - \$27; Life - \$200. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a New York, USA Bank. See Membership Application on page 1.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$15; Council, State or Region - \$30. **MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION:** Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards, how to organize a chapter or membership questions, write Bob Green, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Nancy Lawrence, Office Manager, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704, 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST.

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER: Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BINDERS FOR BACK ISSUES PRIOR TO JULY 1992: \$14.50 each or 2 for \$28.00.

SLIP CASE BOXES FOR BACK ISSUES PRIOR TO JULY 1992: \$12.50 each or 2 for \$24.00.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Ruth Warren, P. O. Box 3664, Fall River, MA 02722.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, P. O. Box 38, Orelana, PA 19075.

BUILDING FUND: Send contributions to Anne Jantzen, 2725 Katrina Way, Mountain View, CA 94040.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: David Buttram, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact J. R. Pittman, 12406 Alexandria, San Antonio, TX 78233.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Esther Edwards Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068 by Sept. 1.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs; interesting speakers to DoDe Whitaker, Convention Director, 2085 Leeward Lane, Merritt Island, FL 32953. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Lancaster, Pennsylvania - April 19 - 24, 1993; Denver, Colorado - May 23 - 28, 1994; St. Louis, Missouri - May 22-27, 1995; Atlanta, Georgia - May 20-25, 1996.

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REVISED PAGES for Updated 1986 and 1990 Handbook - \$4

1992 HANDBOOK - \$9.95
REVISED PAGES for 1992 Handbook - \$1.50

NOTE: If your 1986 (yellow) handbook does not have the 1990 updated pages, you need the 1992 handbook AND the 1992 (\$1.50) updated pages.
IMPORTANT: When ordering revised pages, indicate Handbook you have.

JUDGES DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75751.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Ralph Breden, 127 Via Los Altos, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

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AVM EDITOR: Jane Birge, P. O. Box 1401, Beaumont, Texas 77704; FAX 409-839-4329.

ARTICLES by Members & Columnists: Send to Editor.
COMING EVENT NOTICES: Send to Editor.

"Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists & Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates & copy info: Diane Richardson, 9207 Ravenwood Rd., Baltimore, MD 21237; ph. 410-686-4667.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1. ONLY currently paid Commercial Members may advertise.

SHOW TALK (Winners): Send to Darryl Hoover, 912 S. Highland Ave., Fullerton, CA 92632.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office.

FAILURE TO RECEIVE: Notify AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Jim Smith & Ralph Robinson, 489 Linwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL Number 6 - \$12.95 postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL Binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder.

MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - \$6.95.

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 1407 Calle Espana, San Dimas, CA 91773.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - \$25.00. Updates (when available) - \$25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members, only. Members renewing, receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Janet T. Riener, 256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd., Pennington, NJ 08534.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research, or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Frank Tinari, 2325 Valley Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$6.00 ppd. Order from AVSA Office.

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POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704.

African Violet MAGAZINE

Vol. 46 No. 1

January • February 1993

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

ON THE COVER — ODE TO BEAUTY, a Bill Johnson hybrid and Second Best New Introduction from the Best Display Table by Kent's Flowers of Nebraska, at the 1992 AVSA Convention/Show held in Columbus, Ohio.

Photo by T. A. Etter, Columbus, OH

Table of Contents

REGULAR FEATURES

3. From the President's Desk - Charles Bollard
4. Newslines: AVSA Office - Nancy Lawrence
5. Jane's Journal - Jane Birge
6. Letters to the editor
6. AVSA Building Fund - Anne Jantzen
7. Beginners Column - Kent & Joyce Stork
9. AVSA Booster Fund - Ruth Warren
9. Boyce Edens Research - Marlene Buck
11. Show Talk - Darryl Hoover
13. Question Box - Ralph Robinson
15. Registration Report - Iris Keating
18. Coming Events
20. Creating ... with Fredette - Irene Fredette
21. A Family Portrait - Georgene Albrecht
23. mini-tidbits - Florence Naylor
24. Shows and Judges - Bill Foster
59. 1992 Cumulative Index - Bob Green

PERTAINING TO VIOLETS

22. Send Your Choices - Floyd Lawson
38. Two Ways to Propagate Chimeras
- Pat Hancock

44. AVSA Spotlight on Betty Tapping
- Chantal Pare'

CONVENTION

25. Convention Tours
28. Room Sharing
28. Volunteers Needed
29. Hosts & Hostesses
30. Convention Awards - Esther Edwards Wells
32. Tinari Membership Award
32. Publication Entries
- Supplement - 1992 Convention Information
45. Trains ... Trains - Diane Richardson

SOCIETY BUSINESS

34. Proposed Amendments to AVSA Bylaws
41. Introducing Your AVSA Nominees ...

MISCELLANEOUS

6. Needs Samples - Cathy Corr
10. In Memory
17. Dixie AVS Convention - Carol Schreck
39. Cape AVS Is Holding Contest

Application for Membership	Recommended by _____	Mem. # _____
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Membership runs one year from date paid and includes 6 issues of the African Violet magazine.		
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Index of Advertisers ...

A

- 54. Acree Creations
- 53. African Violet Shop
- 53. African Violets by Grace
- 50. Al's Violets
- 51. A-MI Violettess
- 48. American Gloxinia
and Gesneriad Society
- 48. American Orchid Society
- 52. AV Enterprises Press
- 47. AVS of Canada

B

- 52. Bay Valley Violets
- 51. Big Sky Violets

C

- 49. Cape Cod Violetry
- 48. Country Road Violets
- 47. The Cryptanthus Society

D

- 47. Discus Haven

F

- 52. Florals of Fredericks

H

- 57. HousePlant Magazine

I

- 47. Indoor Gardening Supplies
- 53. Innis Violets

J

- 53. JF Designs
- 50. JF Industries
- 51. JoS Violets
- 51. Judy's Violets

L

- 54. Les Violettess Natalia

- 51. Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

M

- 58. Midland Violets

P

- 54. Patches and Pots
- 53. Plant Collectibles
- 48. Planters International
- 54. Porcelain Jewelry

R

- 53. Rice's Hybrid Violets
- 46. Rob's Mini-o-lets

S

- 56. Schultz
- 58. Shirley's House of Violets
- 50. Sonja's Violets

T

- 56. Teas Nursery
- 52. Travis' Violets
- Back Cover
- Tinari Greenhouses

V

- 54. V-Base
- 45. Verilux
- 58. Verilux
- 50. Violet Creations
- 55. The Violet Express
Inside Back Cover
- The Violet House
- 58. Violets by Appointment
- 50. The Violet Showcase
- 56. Violets from the Starrs
- 53. Violets Plus

Z

- 47. Zaca Vista Nursery

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear AVSA Members,

With the holidays behind us, it is time to again look forward to the future with new things to accomplish or to just plain old enjoy life as it comes.

The AVSA Board of Directors and I wish all of you, health and prosperity in the coming year.

I have heard from a couple of members about their unhappiness with the new size of the AV magazine; they prefer the old one. The board unanimously elected to increase the size for the benefit of AVSA through larger circulation, which means more new members and subscriptions to the magazine.

The executive committee had their mid-term meeting in Beaumont, Texas, in October, 1992, to discuss and vote on new motions for changes and improvements of AVSA. These will be presented to the board for their consideration at the 1993 convention meeting.

I have not heard the outcome of the purchases of the yellow violet at the Columbus convention, but I do hope everyone was pleased with their selection. With this new introduction of color, the hybridizers will have an abundance of new plants to show, register and sell.

Speaking of conventions, have you noticed that there is a registration form to be filled out in this issue? It has a large selection of tours, banquets and outstanding presentations to be seen and heard. There will be new introductions of violets and, not to be overlooked, a presentation of hundreds of plants in all forms of displays for your pleasure, at the show.

Register now and I'll see you there in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. It's the place where friends meet and share a common interest — the joy of African violets.

Fondly,

A. Charles Bollar
AVSA President

NEWSLINE:

AVSA Beaumont Office ...

NANCY LAWRENCE
AVSA Office Manager

Happy New Year to all of our members. A special New Year's welcome to all of our **new** members. We hope you are enjoying your **African Violet Magazine** and having great success with your "growing." I would like to remind you that our AVSA staff is ready and willing to provide you with information you may need about AVSA.

New members who are looking for places to buy African violets, should have our 1992 September *African Violet Magazine* (AVM). The September AVM lists (by state) all of the Commercial members who sell African violets and supplies.

The September AVM also lists our affiliated clubs, and there may be one in your area. The members of these clubs can offer you growing information, and they are always happy to have **new** members. You can order the September 1992 AVM from this office, for \$2.50.

AFFILIATE

LIABILITY INSURANCE:

(1993 Policy Begins 01/01/93)

In early November, we sent out an insurance renewal form for 1993. The forms were addressed to the President of each club, who had taken the insurance last year — or to the Treasurer of your club.

On the form we quoted a price of \$2.40 per member for the

1993 coverage. We listed the number of members you gave us last year, and we asked that you make any changes (name of president, treasurer and number of members) and return the form to us with your check by December 10.

We have only heard from about half of the clubs who took the insurance last year. If your club was unable to renew by December 10, you may still renew your insurance. I realize that many of our clubs do not meet in December; so, we are now giving you until February 15 to renew your insurance.

If your club did not receive the renewal form or if you do not want to renew, please let the office know.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

The pink pages in this magazine have your registration form for the Lancaster, Pennsylvania Convention - April 19-24, 1993, and you will also find a reservation form for hotel accommodations and all of the other information you need to know about the convention.

When completing your registration, we ask that you please comply with the following requests:

1. We need a registration form for **EACH** person in your party. Please **do not** put **TWO** people on **ONE** form. There is

an extra form on the white cover of your magazine and you can make copies of the form, if needed.

2. **Payments:** You may pay by check on a U.S. bank, or by MasterCard or VISA. Please **do not** include payments for **membership or orders** in your convention registration checks. MasterCard and VISA can only be used for convention registrations — not for memberships or orders.
3. **Hotel Reservations** must be sent directly to the hotel. We do not make reservations for hotels for you.
4. We can make special requests for food substitutions on your banquet meals, but we cannot make food substitutions for you on meals you receive on Tours.
5. **Special Seating Requests:** All persons who want to sit together, must send in their registrations in the same envelope. Registrations and seating arrangements are made in the order in which they are received.

The Lancaster, PA Convention promises to be another great experience for all of you who have the opportunity to attend. If you have never attended an AVSA convention — what a wonderful surprise you have in store.

Jane's Journal

Jane Birge, Editor

This new year — 1993 — marks the beginning of the 12th year that I have worked on this magazine.

I became editor in 1984; however, prior to that I worked at Becker Printing Company where my sole position was the composition of the *African Violet Magazine*. I worked very closely with then editor, Grace Foote.

I have probably picked up more information on these houseplants, simply through osmosis, than anyone around. It has been a grand 12 years and I look eagerly to what the future holds — maybe an odoriferous violet — wouldn't that be something!

I was speaking to **Winston Smith** the other day, (remember him - Wrangler's and Maverick's) and he asked me if I could help him find a couple of plants.

I suspect the hybridizing bug is hitting him again — he would like to find 'Beth' and 'Red Witch.' If anyone can help him, he can be reached at Rt. 1, Box 84A, Liberty, TX 77575.

Oh, by the way, he happened to mention that Nancy and I should stop by in the spring and see his over 400 rose plants. We sure will, Winston.

Not to be missed — is the wonderful little magazine put out by **The Saintpaulia & Houseplant Society** of Eng-

land. The editor, **Gwen Goodship**, does a marvelous job and was kind enough to send me a copy.

Any of you interested should contact her at 33 Common Road, Langley Slough, Berks, England SL3 8JZ.

The publication covers a wide area of horticulture and is published quarterly.

Guess what????

I have received more flags! I promise, one of these issues I will run a list of the countries, provinces and states that I have. Then you can see if your area is represented.

I don't mind duplicates, though — they are all so pretty and, of course, the more the merrier. They really give a feel of our territorial splendor.

Nancy and Floretta Willets of Kingston, Tennessee, have been kind enough to send a "Volunteer State" flag. They said they received the flag through the office of State Representative Dennis Ferguson, but it also represents the state of our new U.S. Vice President - Al Gore. I am very proud to have a flag from the volunteer state.

Evelyn Spracklen was thoughtful enough to send the wonderful flag from the State of Wyoming. She says she has grown violets for over 40 years and never tires of working with them and enjoys the magazine.

And ... from EVERYONE in

the Reno/Sparks AVS, I received the beautiful deep blue flag of Nevada. Actually, it was sent by **Jann Selleck** of Reno, who went on to say that "this flag was actually made in Nevada." I didn't think anything but millionaires and marriages were "actually" made in Nevada!

Well, as we begin this new year there are many things to look forward to — maybe brand new colors being introduced with the influence of the yellow violets that became available in 1992. Maybe our membership will increase by getting the AVM out in the bookstores, thereby bringing in more revenue... and then just maybe we can increase the number of color pages in the magazine.

My Number One Resolution in 1993 will be to try and increase interest in AVSA and the AVM. It is only through the increase in membership that we all will really "grow."

I am very sad to bid a fond farewell to our hybridizing columnist — **Irene Fredette** who has written the "Creating with Fredette" column in this magazine this past year. She has decided to retire from the AVM. Thank you, Irene, for just being a part of AVSA. (Now maybe you can write some feature articles for me — please, please — will you think about it?)

Have a great time at convention in Lancaster, PA.



AVSA Building Fund

ANNE JANTZEN, *Chairman*
2725 Katrina Way
Mountain View, CA 94040

Dear editor:

I just received my first issue of the African Violet Magazine and I have read it from cover to cover. It has helped me a great deal.

I had an older violet that was ready for "File 13" until I read how to take care of a long-necked plant. Now there is hope for my oldest plant.

I have raised African violets for years as a window sill grower and have 24 varieties. I would like to start growing under lights and also want to get a yellow variety.

I would like an African Violet Pen Pal — someone with more experience as a grower, as a friend. I have several cooking pen pals already. I am a head cook at a middle school. I am 44 years old.

Thanks again for your great magazine.

Yours truly,

Libby Bowles

P. O. Box 156

Ashford, VA 25009

Needs Samples Of Magazines —

Cathy Cornibe of
Santa Cruz, CA is inter-
ested in any samples of
state council magazines.
Please contact:

Cathy Cornibe
197 Archer Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

It happens every year — the members of AVSA respond generously to appeals for support from the Building Fund.

Some give modest gifts, other large gifts. But most importantly, all seem to recognize the Building Fund's need for their help. Result — they do what they can.

My purpose is to invite you to follow their example — to join with them in this vital work.

Your contribution will be gratefully received and acknowledged and it will be used with maximum effectiveness to benefit AVSA.

Won't you take a moment now — this very day — to send in your contribution?

From all of us at AVSA, and especially from the Building Fund, thanks!

Contributions

from Aug. 1 - 31, 1992

Don L. Thornburg, CA	\$15.00
Garden State AVC, NJ	
in lieu of Judge's travel expenses	
to Bessie Pyle	
and Libby Behnke	20.00
Union County Chapter,	
AVSA, NJ	50.00
Jefferson AV Assn., LA	25.00
Delta Gesneriad & AVS, CA	25.00
Individual members	
of Granada Hills AVS, CA	
and San Fernando Valley AVS, CA	
in memory of Harry Kerwin	60.00
Gene Loveland, MO	10.00
Graham Goode, NC	5.00
Hiroko Endoh, Japan	33.00
Lau Hin Cheung, Hong Kong	20.00
Larry L. Williams, AZ	20.00
P. J. Cronoe,	
Republic of South Africa	20.00
Shirley L. Berger, FL	25.00

Madeline Malvese, NY

in memory of M. Gertrude Buckley,	
member of Long Island AVS	10.00
Orange County AVS, CA	25.00
Mary Walker Beall, TX	50.00
Glenn A. Chamulak, MI	100.00
Irene P. Merrell, WI	28.70

Total for the month - \$551.70

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS -
\$81,579.05

Contributions from Sept. 1 - 30, 1992

Don L. Thornburg, CA	\$15.00
Charlotte E. Lynn, NJ	
in lieu of judging expenses	
from Garden Club	
of Leisure Knoll, NJ	25.00
Central Texas Judges Council	
purchased printer	
for the AVSA office	435.95
Award from Education Table	
at San Mateo County Fair, CA	
- manned by Harriette Poss,	
Rowena Woo & Enid Wood	155.00
AV sale at San Mateo County Fair,	
CA by AVSA members	100.00
Ecy Forcht, TX	
in memory of Mattie Mae Mayfield,	
past president	
of Arlington AVS	15.00
Burbank AVS, CA	10.00
Tristate AVC, NJ	
in memory of George Johnson ..	15.00
First AVS of Spartanburg, SC ...	10.00

Total for the month - \$780.95

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS -
\$82,360.00

HELPFUL HINT:

USE A BLUE SHARPIE PEN
TO WRITE NAMES AND PRICES
ON PLASTIC STICKS FOR
SHOWS. A QUICK DIP IN BLEACH
WILL INSTANTLY REMOVE THE
WRITING!

BEGINNERS COLUMN

KENT & JOYCE STORK
2501 East 23rd Avenue
Fremont, Nebraska 68025



May we introduce the relatives?

The Gesneriad Family

Recently a reader commented that, while she really enjoyed reading the show results in the *African Violet Magazine*, there were some things which she didn't understand at all. We think she probably meant the awards given to Other Gesneriads. Since gesneriads are the African violet's family, it will hopefully be interesting for beginning growers to get better acquainted.

There are over 2,000 species of gesneriads to be found throughout the world, but only a few are commonly available. The African violet is definitely the most popular of the gesneriads, but there are numerous others which can be equally enjoyable.

WHAT MAKES A PLANT A GESNERIAD?

In botanical terms, the family is known as **Gesneriaceae**, which is in Division 7 of the plant kingdom (seed plants). They are in Subdivision 2 which includes all flowering plants, and, within that group, are labeled as Order No. 34.

Now, in simpler terms, all plants that are grouped as gesneriads have some charac-

teristics in common. The reproductive parts of the flower, the ovary and stigma, stand above the calyx (the base of the flower) and in most cases above the petals. Each flower can form one single seed pod with many seeds inside. Gesneriads are not parasitic, and the leaf structure of each is simple (rather than compound, as for example, the rose).

There are some interesting patterns in the family. The flowers of most are joined at the base so that even if they seem to have flat blossoms (like violets) the petals are actually lobes of a tube. The flowers usually have four or five lobes which are commonly called petals. Botanists describe the flower as zygomorphic because there is only one line of symmetry which will divide the blossom into two equal sections (or mirror images). In most cases the flowers have two smaller top petals and three larger bottom petals.

The calyx, which is where the green part of the plant attaches to the flower, is always five-parted, and in some cases the calyx is quite decorative. The *Aeschynanthus*, or lipstick vine, is a good example with two-inch

flowers growing out of a long black tube-shaped calyx.

The leaves would seem to be radically different from one another, but all have oval or spatulate shapes. The surface texture, color patterns, and growing habits may distract you, though. The waxy surface of the trailing *Nematanthus* hybrids are far different from the multi-color-haired leaves of the *Episcia* plants. But *Nematanthus* and *Episcias* are both popular members of the gesneriad family.

The roots also vary significantly. There are three different root structures, which doesn't sound very interesting, except that it is how we divide the gesneriads into smaller groups. Many, like violets, have fibrous roots. A few, like *sinningias*, have tuberous roots. Several others, like the *achimenes* have scaly rhizomes which go dormant for a season.

Joyfully, most members of the family can be propagated easily and many can be cultivated into bloom in home situations.

HOW DID THEY GET THEIR NAME?

Long before anyone seriously

attempted to describe the family of gesneriads, a man named Konrad Gesner studied botany as a source of medicines. He was born in Switzerland in 1516, and was educated as a result of a scholarship provided by Ulrich Zwingli, a famous theologian. He was well respected and his works were reprinted and studied for over 200 years. When the gesneriad family was described in 1693, a French botanist suggested that Gesner be honored by naming the plant family after him; although Gesner personally had not studied them.

LET'S MEET A FEW OF THE BETTER-KNOWN RELATIVES

Episcias are one of the more commonly available "other" gesneriads. Sometimes inexperienced growers will call these plants 'Chocolate Soldier,' which is the name of one of the popular hybrids in the group.

All of the plants in this group have gorgeous foliage, and are often exhibited without flowers for their ornamental quality. They do bloom easily, most with red or orange flowers. You may have seen *Episcia* 'Cleopatra' with its large and delicate pink, mint green, and white leaves, at African violet shows. It usually requires a terrarium-type container to thrive. Sturdier varieties like *Episcia* 'KeeWee' with darker reddish tones thrive with minimal care.

These plants make beautiful hanging displays and love warm sunny locations. One caution: they perish at temperatures below 50°F.

Another very popular plant is the **columnea** which has a very striking blossom, usually red or

yellow, that suggests the shape of a flying fish. For this reason, it is often called the "goldfish plant."

These can grow in a limp trailing style, with small fuzzy leaves, or in a more upright woody form with large coarse hairy leaves. It is not uncommon for these to carry over 100 blossoms at once, and the care is very similar to African violets.

Achimenes, one of the scaly-rhizomed types, is a gesneriad that seems to thrive as a hanging porch plant in the southern half of the country.

The blossoms can be as large as three inches across, and have a tube-shaped blossom which flares into a wide dramatic trumpet that often features interesting veining and color variations. They are messy inside, and will quickly go dormant if allowed to dry out even briefly.

Gloxinias are also in this family. The gloxinia that your florist sells is actually not a gloxinia in scientific terms; however, it is actually a large showy member of the *sinningias*. The true gloxinia has blue bell-shaped flowers on wild sprawling stems. The true gloxinia is a scaly-rhizome and has to have a dormant period.

The **sinningias**, are probably second in popularity to violets, because of the florist's gloxinia. The other members of the *sinningia* family may not be quite as grand, but they provide some of the most beautiful and varied flowers to be found among gesneriads.

The tiniest of *sinningias* could grow inside a baby food jar (not an attractive picture, but it shows how tiny they are), and of course, the florist's gloxinias can

easily grow two feet in diameter. These plants also may experience a period of dormancy at the end of the bloom cycle, and will grow again from the tuber when the time is right. They also grow easily from seed. Care again is rather similar to African violets, although some of the larger types may need more intense light.

The last gesneriad we'll describe here is another which demonstrates fabulous blossoms — the **streptocarpus**. There are many variations of growth habits in this group, some are annuals and some are perennials. The feature that draws them altogether is the seedpod which has a twisted look.

Streps (as they are affectionately known) have foliage that is quite different from any other gesneriads; the leaves are very long and strap shaped with a frail, thin texture and striking veins. Most of the blossoms have a tube shape that flares into open graceful lobes with rich color. These plants seem to favor slightly cooler conditions (55 to 75°F).

There are many more gesneriads, and we're sure that experienced growers who read this will wish that we had mentioned the one that they love best. There is great fun in trying some of these and watching for others that can be grown alongside our African violets.

COMMON HORTICULTURAL NEEDS OF THE FAMILY

Nearly all of the gesneriads need care remarkably similar to violets.

Good bright light, and usually fluorescent light, will guarantee

better blooming. They generally need porous airy soils, regular fertilization, and good humidity. Most prefer even moisture, except for dormant periods. They are somewhat sensitive to fungal diseases and those with soft hairy foliage are really vulnerable to rot, if they get wet.

The greatest variation is probably in temperature preferences. Since gesneriads are found worldwide in many climates, the grower must be especially aware of the temperature needs when selecting new types to grow.

THE CORRECT WAY TO WRITE A GESNERIAD'S NAME

This may seem silly to some, but we must get the name right! If a grower has told you that the plants he is referring to are *Episcias*, then he may from then on write their names as *E. repans* (if it is a species) or *E. 'Chocolate Soldier'* (if it is a hybrid).

Similarly, the African violet's scientific name is *saintpaulia*, and so one of the *saintpaulia* species would be written as *S. ionantha*.

WHERE TO FIND SOME TO TRY

Those who carefully read the advertisements in the back of this magazine will find that many violet growers offer a selection of some other gesneriads. Gesneriads are also frequently offered for sale at African violet shows. A few areas of the country have gesneriad clubs and shows. It doesn't seem to take long to find some, if you're interested.

This magazine also features a column on the gesneriads written by Georgene Albrecht who can guide you into more specific needs of certain plants.

INVITE SOME HOME

There's an old joke that fish and relatives stink after three days, but you'll probably want to enjoy African violet relatives for a long time.

At least try an *episcia* or one of the others that seems to match your conditions. You'll soon be hearing comments from friends who "never saw anything like that before!"

It's a pretty nice family to know.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND

MARLENE BUCK
P. O. Box 38
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Contributors Please Note:

When making a donation be sure to include the way you want your club's name listed in the AVM. Also, be sure and list the correct city and state where your club is located.

Donations received from July 20, 1992, through September 20, 1992:

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AVSA Booster Fund

RUTH WARREN, *Chairman*
P. O. Box 3664, Fall River, MA 02722

The Booster Fund has provided extra considerations that the AVSA budget was not able to provide. We reached one goal and we are trying to raise monies for some necessary office furnishings. Our spring shows may make us able to share some monies for this project. When you share, we know you care. Could we not only belong to AVSA, but also to participate in our endeavors.

Mid America AVS \$10.00
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In Memory

GERTRUDE MATTON — The Falcon Heights Hi-Loa Society (MN) was greatly saddened by the death of one of its charter members. Gertrude Mattson died June 27, 1992. Gertrude served the Hi-Loa Society in all offices, currently as secretary. She was a member of AVSA and the African Violet Society of Minnesota. A great journalist, Gertrude served AVSM as publicity chair and historian, writing many articles for AVSM, several of which were published in the AVM. She will be truly missed by her fellow club members. Gertrude is survived by two sons, Mark and David, and several grandchildren. Our deepest sympathy goes out to them.

*Palma Trapp
President*

Falcon Heights Hi-Loa Society

HELEN RYAN — It is with great sadness that we note the death of a very special woman and friend, Helen Ryan, on October 6, 1992. Helen was the immediate past president of Central Jersey African Violet Society, an advanced judge and a member of the Judge's Council. She was also the membership chair of the Tri-State AVS and a committee member of the 1993 Lancaster AVSA convention. Helen took great pride in her beautiful violets, often winning many awards and rosettes. Kind, considerate, caring and very generous, Helen was always ready to give of her time or

share her plants and leaves with all who wished. She was especially proud of her miniatures. A beautiful and loving person, Helen will be missed by all. A donation will be sent in her memory to AVSA.

*Cecelia Winfield
President
Central Jersey AVS*

ELIZABETH WILSON — Elizabeth Wilson died August 18, 1992. She was a faithful guide, a strong leader and a friend. She had many friends in AVSA. She liked to grow violets and shared them with everyone. Elizabeth served as president of the Top Choice African Violet Society (LA) during her 13-year membership. She is survived by her husband O. P. (Pic) Wilson, who is also active in AVSA, a son, a daughter and one grandson. We are sure Elizabeth will be remembered by her many friends.

*Ruby Parker
President
Top Choice AVSA*

SHIZUE MAEKAWA — Mrs. Maekawa of Funabashi City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan, died on September 8, 1992, after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, Takashi, and a daughter, Ari. She was 64 years old and a Life Member of AVSA. Mrs. Maekawa was one of the driving forces of the All Saintpaulia Club of Japan. She devoted most of later years to the growing and promotion of

African violets and her energy and enthusiasm was boundless. She was instrumental in promoting AVSA and AVSA standards of judging in AV shows in Japan. After my series of judging schools was completed, she became Chief of Judges of ASC and held many judging schools each year. At the invitation of ASC, I made my first trip to Japan in 1980. Mrs. Maekawa became the most avid student in the horticulture and judging classes I presented. During the course of 10 more teaching visits to Japan, we became close, personal friends and she attended several AVSA conventions. Our native tongues may have differed, but as women, friends, and AV enthusiasts, we spoke the same language. Communicating through interpreters was frustrating for this dynamic woman so she started refresher courses in English with the same verve she put into every project in her life. My fondest memories are of the lunches we shared with our group of friends, but without an interpreter present. The pages of our Japanese/English dictionaries flew and we laughed until the tears ran. Now the tears run again only they are tears of sadness. My heart goes out to her husband and daughter, to her close friend, Mrs. Miho Furukawa, and to her many other friends. Goodbye dear Shizue, I shall miss you very much.

*Pauline Bartholomew
Signal Hill, CA*

SHOW TALK

DARRYL HOOVER
912 S. Highland Ave., Apt. C
Fullerton, CA 92632

To ensure each exhibitor and exhibit receives the recognition they deserve, please either print or type your results on the reporting form. Once you've completed the Show Talk report, please double check your spelling. I can check hybrids through the MVL; however, individual names require me to contact the particular affiliates show chair. This may delay the publishing of your show results.

Please include a self-addressed stamped post card with your report. This will allow me to acknowledge receipt of your report and allows me to inquire with the affiliate should the need arise.

FIRST HALIFAX AVS, CANADA — "Violets Out of Africa," Dorothy Owens, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Absinthe House*, Skagit Ebbitide, *Optimara Kansas*, best in show, *Happy Trails*, best trailer, *Happy Trails*, best miniature, *Sprite-ly*, best semi, *Prince William*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Kay Anderson**. Second best AVSA collection, *Pixie Blue* (m tr), *Brazos Belle* (m tr), *Blustery Trail* (m tr), best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Ruby Red Dress'*, **Ina Beaver**. Best design, "Mystic Rainforest," **Lana Gresluk**.

METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AVS, MO — "One Hundred Years of Violets," Marilyn Evensen, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Rob's Pink Satin* (sm), *Deano* (sm), *Hand Made* (sm), second best in show, *Precious Pink* (sm), best design, "1969 Man's First Walk on the Moon," best miniature, *Buzz*, best semi, *Precious Pink*, sweepstakes (horticulture and design), **Fran Russom**. Second best AVSA collection, *Ness' Angel Eyes* (sm), *Ness' Red Flash* (sm), *Rob's Little Butterfly* (sm), best in show, *Bourane*, best trailer, *Rob's Sticky Wicket*, **Ardath Miller**. Best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Pink Brocade'*, **Hilda Reitz**.

AVS OF CENTRAL ALBERTA, CANADA — "A Symphony of Violets," Elaine Neilly, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Purple Lightning*, *Happy Cricket*, *Picasso*, **Joanna McDonald**. Best in show, *Citadin*, **Julie Dobler**. Second best in show, *Red Petticoats*, best gesneriad, *Aeschynanthus Tropicana*, **Isabel Valli**. Best design, "Living in Perfect Harmony," **Margaret Jarrett**. Best trailer, *Rob's Sticky Wicket*, best semi, *Blue Denim*, **Betty Nagy**.

AVS OF UTAH — "Discover the World of Violets with AVSA," Ruthann Lloyd, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Optimara Nevada*, *Kiwi Dazzle*, *Amigo*, **Betty Anderson**. Second best AVSA collection, *Fickle Flirt*, *Granger's Wonderland*, *Blue Zephyr*, **Ray Poulter**. Best in show, *Redland's Pride*, second best in show, *Night Life*, best semi, *Winneregreen*, **Edyth Crandall**. Best design, "The Old World - 1492 San Salvador," **Eva Goodfellow**, **Marie Joy** (tie). Best trailer, *Pixie Blue*, **Bessah Swanson**. Best miniature, *Alps Charm*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Daisy Godfrey**. Best gesneriad, *Sinningia 'Bright Eyes'*, **Marjorie Kasuussen**. Sweepstakes (design), **Eva Goodfellow**.

PAUMANOK AVS, NY — "Violets Discover . . .," Jane Weber, Gloria Rutmayer, chairs. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Kumiko*, *Bud's Melanie*, *Granger's Desert Dawn*, best in show, *Kumiko*, second best in show, *S. orbicularis purpurea*, **Jane Weber**. Second best AVSA collection, *Kumiko*, *Harbor Blue*, *Pink Confession*, best design, "Violets Discover Sports," best trailer, *Blooms Away*, **Gloria Rutmayer**; best miniature, *Optimara Little Crystal*, best semi, *Ness' Sno Fun*, **Martha Spyridon**. Best gesneriad, *Sinningia 'Ruffled Wood Nymph'*, **Joan Stuckey**. Sweepstakes (horticulture), **Anne Madsen**. Sweepstakes (design), **Tina Pigart**.

FIRST GOLDSBORO AVS, NC — "Remembering With Violets," Frances Deans, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Magnolia*, *Georgia Lover*, *Nortex's Snowkist Haven*, best in show, *Mickey Mouse* (m), best design, "Cliffs of the Neuse," best miniature, *Mickey Mouse*, best semi, *Hand Made*, sweepstakes (horticulture/design), **Frances**

Deans. Second best AVSA collection, *Wrangler's Dixie Celebration*, *Wrangler's Gaudy Lady*, *Wrangler's Mountain Mama*, **Mary Casey**. Best trailer, *Perk Up*, **Ethel Twiford**. Second best in show, *Happy Trails*, **Bobbie Yelverton**. Best gesneriad, *Sinningia 'Cherry Chips'*, **Lorena Bunn**.

PARMATOWN AVC, OH — "Ohio Sunset with African Violets," Marge Kovach, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Optimara New Mexico*, *The King*, *Pink Enchantment*, best in show, *Sedona*, second best in show, *Optimara New Mexico*, best design, "Kingwood Center," best miniature, *Rob's Pal Paul*, best semi, *Summer Song*, **Marian Teisdale**. Second best AVSA collection, *Chiffon Masquerade*, *Optimara Sequoia*, *Optimara Maryland*, best gesneriad, *Streptocarpus 'Thalia'*, **Martha Bell**. Best trailer, *Daisy Trail*, **Linda Neumann**.

TIDEWATER AVS, VA — "Let's Celebrate - Violets for All Occasions," Carol Van, chair. Winners: best in show, *Marl*, second best in show, *Topmost* (sm), best miniature, *Rob's Sandstorm*, best semi, *Topmost*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Irene Moore**. Best design, "Memorial Day," sweepstakes (design), **Sue Hoffman**. Best trailer, *Pixie Blue*, **Frances Griffen**. Best gesneriad, *Kohleria 'Dark Velvet'*, **Pat Knight**.

AVS OF CALGARY, CANADA — "Violet Reflections," Florence Douglas, Winston Goretzky, chairs. Winners: Best in show, *Wrangler's Bryan's Eva*, **Brenda Naroznick**. Second best in show, *Flamingo*, **Winston Goretzky**. Best design, "Music Box Dancer," **Cindy Salamonowicz**. Best trailer, *Pixie Blue*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Gertrude Schneider**. Best miniature, *Optimara Rose Quartz*, **Monika Niedre**. Best semi, *Ruffled Joy*, **Mary Miner**.

AVS OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA — "Discover the New World of Violets," Gary Beck, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Taffy Joy* (sm), *Little Pro* (sm), *Ruby Slippers* (sm), best design, "Discover the New World of Violets," sweepstakes (design), **Janet Fox**. Second best AVSA collection, *Wrangler's Purple Moon*, *Picotee Petticoat*, *Happy Cricket*, **Don Thornburg**. Best in show, *Midnight Magic*, **Anita Camhi**. Second best in show, *Magic Blue* (sm), best trailer, *Sunset Trail*, best semi, *Magic Blue*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Gary Beck**. Best miniature, *Ballet Blueberry Swirls*, best gesneriad, *Nematanthus 'Mary Ann'*, **Fred Graffelman**.

OKAVILLE AVS, CANADA — "Violets in History," Eva Linstol, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Ness' Viking Maiden*, *Tiger's Son*, *Jean*, best in show, *Ness' Viking Maiden*, **Gerry Hulleman**. Second best AVSA collection, *Dolled Up* (sm), *Ness' Tutti*

Frutti (sm), *Snuggles Little Dreamer* (sm), second best in show, *Glitter Star*, best semi, *Ness' Tutti Frutti*, best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Limone'*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Tony Hullemann**. Best design, "Edgar Allen Poe's Black Raven," sweepstakes (design), **Inez Wolfe**.

RENO/SPARKS AVS, NV — "April Showers Bring May Flowers," Carol J. Mark, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Rob's Dylan Ross* (sm), *Little Katherine* (sm), *Snuggles* (sm), best in show, *Lady Linda*, best design, "April Showers Bring May Showers," best trailer, *Linda Darnel*, best miniature, *Optimara Little Moonstone*, best semi, *Snuggles*, **Carol Mark**. Best gesneriad, *Streptocarpus 'White Nymph'*, **Betty Schmidt**.

AVS OF GREATER NEW YORK — "Violets go to School," Claire J. Schirtzer, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Ramblin' Silver* (sm tr), *Ramblin' Angel* (sm tr), *Rob's Sticky Wicket* (sm tr), Second best in show, *Falling Snow* (sm tr), best trailer, *Falling Snow*, best semi, *Snuggles Blushing Doll*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Marianne Gershon**. Second best AVSA collection, *Rob's Pink Satin* (sm), *Academy Lady Jane* (sm), *Sugar Bear Pink* (sm), *Joe Kohn*. Best in show, *Painted Sunrise*, best design, "Gymnastics," best miniature, *Mickey Mouse*, best gesneriad, *Alsbolia dianthiflora*, **Rose Rhossn**. Sweepstakes (design), **Helen Szymko**.

SILVERMINE AVS, CT — "All Things Bright and Beautiful," Lynn Wallach, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Everdina* (m), *Optimara Little Amethyst* (m), *Optimara Rose Quartz* (m), best in show, *Milky Way Trail*, second best in show, *Call Me Friend*, best design, "Southern Bells," best trailer, *Milky Way Trail*, best miniature, *Everdina*, best gesneriad, *Codonanthe carnosa*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Lynn Wallach**. Second best AVSA collection, *Lela Marie*, *Something Special*, *Suncoast Paisley Print*, **Julie Bacon**. Best semi, *Magie Blue*, **Sylvia Siegel**.

THE MONTGOMERY AVS, AL — "A Circus of Violets," Betsy Loerch, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Kiss of Fire*, *Dance Time*, *Picasso*, second best in show, *Kiss of Fire*, **Peg Phytinyon**. Second best AVSA collection, *Kathe Denise*, *Granger's Wonderland*, *Tiger Lily*, best semi, *Rob's Doodlebug*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Mary Noseley**. Best in show, *Picasso*, best design, "The Lion Tamer," sweepstakes (design), **Donna Ferguson**. Best trailer, *Blooms Away*, best miniature, *Blue Mystique*, **Eleanor Robinson**. Best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Acajou'*, **Betsy Loerch**.

BAY STATE AVS, MA — "Violets Tour the Galaxy," Joan Dikun, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Opti-*

mara Molakai, *Other Delights*, *Ming Blue*, best in show, *Optimara Molakai*, **Marge Cunningham**. Second best AVSA collection, *Splendiferous*, *Phantom Flash*, *Mary Alice*, second best in show, *S. velutina*, best miniature, *Everdina*, best semi, *Ness' Red Flash*, best gesneriad (blooming), *Episcia 'Pink Panther'*, best gesneriad (foliage), *Episcia 'Cleopatra'*, **Lorraine Connors**. Sweepstakes (design), **Bob Clark**. Sweepstakes (horticulture), **Althea Major**, **Sylvia Feldman**, **Marge Cunningham** (3 way tie).

SUSSEX ROYAL SAINTPAULIA, CANADA — "Violet's Centennial 1892-1992," Jeanie Bell, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Percy Burton Earle*, *Quilting Bee*, *Louise Croteau*, best in show, *Percy Burton Earle*, best design, "On Safari," best trailer, *Fancy Trail*, best miniature, *Annina*, **Jeanie Bell**. Second best in show, *Jonathan*, best semi, *Lil Bit-O-Irish*, best gesneriad, *Streptocarpus*, sweepstakes (horticulture and design), **Anne Moffett**.

TORONTO AVS, Canada — "Out of Africa - 100 Years," Jean Hamilton, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Precious Pink* (sm), *Ruffled Joy* (sm), *Ness' Tutti Frutti* (sm), best trailer, *Scuba Diver*, best miniature, *Tamsen*, best semi, *Petite Pink Bouquet*, best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Silver Skies'*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Betty Tapping**. Second best AVSA collection, *Isadorable*, *Jean*, *Phantom Flash*, **Fred Wopodham**. Best in show, *Harbor Blue*, **Bud Tapping**. Second best in show, *Peach Puff*, **Bev Britt**. Best design, "Victoria Violets," **Inez Wolfe**. Sweepstakes (design), **Eleanor Elston**.

AVS OF SOUTH BAY, CA — "Violet Gems," Celine Chase, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Snow Rose*, *Maverick's Bluegrass Music*, *Tomahawk*, best in show, *Grape Splash*, second best in show, *Snow Rose*, best trailer, *Rob's Sticky Wicket*, **Dorothy Gawienowski**. Second best AVSA collection, *Little Angel* (sm), *Snuggles* (sm), *Shutterbug* (sm), best semi, *Shutterbug*, **Evelyn Allustiari**. Best design, "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend," best miniature, *Optimara Little Kunzite*, sweepstakes (design), **Irene Thomas**. Best gesneriad, *Shinningia pusilla*, **Celine Chase**. Sweepstakes (horticulture), **Ray Britton**.

PRIDE OF ENTERPRISE AVS, AL — "Blasting Off with Violets," Tony Collins, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Magnolia*, *Janice Ann*, *Sweet Mama*, best in show, *Purr Pink*, sweepstakes (combined), **Ben Strickland**. Best design, "Violets Venus," best gesneriad, *Columnnea Starburst*, **Cindy Judy**. Best trailer, *Foxwood Trail*, **Vivian Ferguson**. Best semi, *Rob's Silver Spook*, **David**

Hayes.

AVS OF ROCHESTER, NY — "Violets Get Hooked on the Classics," Doug Burdick, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Happy Cricket*, *Harbor Blue*, *Majestic*, best in show, *Moonlight 'n' Pink*, second best in show, *Harbor Blue*, **Doug Burdick**. Best design, "The Blue Danube Waltz," best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Silver Skies'*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Diane Johanson**. Best miniature, *Optimara Rose Quartz*, best semi, *Precious Pink*, **Alice Dowd**. Sweepstakes (design), **Pat Galante**.

QUANNAPOWITT AVC, MA — "Violets in Storybookland," Robert Clark, Jr., chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Optimara Montana*, *Tiger*, *Sapphire Halo*, best in show, *Optimara Montana*, second best in show, *Tiger*, best trailer, *Ramblin' Stardust*, best miniature, *Rob's Firebrand*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Harlan Montgomery**. Best design, "Snow White," **Dolores Wilson**. Best gesneriad, *Nauticlocyia pemphidius*, **Alice Courage**.

MONCTONIAN AVS, CANADA — "Say It With Violets," Eva Belliveau, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Little Jim* (sm), *Academy Merry Mary* (sm), *Magie Blue* (sm), best in show, *Little Jim* (sm), best design, terrarium, best semi, *Little Jim*, **Eva Belliveau**. Second best in show, *Heart's Desire*, **Francine Cain**. Best trailer, *Rob's Sticky Wicket*, best gesneriad, *Trichantha pulchra*, "Orange Crush," **Bonnie Murray**.

STAMPEDE CITY AVS, CANADA — "Century of Violets," Erika Hargesheimer, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Optimara Little Sapphire* (m), *Optimara Little Pearl* (m), *Optimara Little Diamond* (m), best design, "Through the Ages," best trailer, *Brazos Belle*, best miniature, *Rob's No Blossom*, **Margaret Gratto**. Second best AVSA collection, *Optimara Little Sapphire* (m), *Optimara Little Diamond* (m), *Optimara Little Amethyst* (m), best in show, *Lela Marie*, second best in show, *Picasso*, best gesneriad, *Columnnea 'California Gold'*, **Erika Hargesheimer**. Best semi, *Precious Pink*, **Betty Nagy**. Sweepstakes (horticulture), **Ingrid Nelson**.

AVS OF SYRACUSE, NY — "A Century of Violets," Frank Barthel, chair. Winners: best AVSA collection, *Optimara Little Aquamarine* (m), *Optimara Little Pearl* (m), *Paradise Baby* (m), best miniature, *Ballet Snowflake*, best semi, *Ruby Red Dress*, **Donna Covenann**. Best in show, *Ramblin' Peach* (tr), best design, "Silver Memories," best trailer, *Ramblin' Peach*, sweepstakes (horticulture and design), **Ethel Champion**. Second best in show, *Party Print*, **Joann Lloyd**. Best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Country Charm'*, **Barbara Ellison**.



QUESTION BOX

JAMES SMITH & RALPH ROBINSON
489 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209



I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable holiday season. The middle of winter is when I most enjoy my violet hobby. As bleak as the weather can sometimes be outside, it's always bright and colorful in the plant room.

Question: Some of the leaves that I have rooted aren't producing babies. The rooted leaf seems to be healthy. In fact, it seems to be growing.

Answer: When selecting leaves to propagate, it is best to use those that are fully mature, but not "old." The usual advice is to use a leaf from a "middle row," but this is misleading. Since I try to keep all of my violets well groomed, all the time, they rarely have unnecessary rows of leaves. Therefore, a leaf on the "outer row" of such a plant would be the equivalent of one from a "middle row" on one with superfluous foliage. What you really are looking for is a leaf that is mature, yet still succulent and fresh, and not tough or woody. Very old leaves, or those with tough, woody petioles, often can be very stubborn in producing plantlets.

As for the leaf growing, this will often happen once the leaf has rooted. When growing in a covered container, as I do, these leaves will often lift the cover off. To keep this from happening, you can cut off the top portion of the leaf blade once the leaf has

rooted. This will keep the leaf from growing much larger. I do this with all of my leaves. In fact, when I first put the leaves down, I remove the entire perimeter of the leaf blade, leaving a wedge (with petiole) about the size of a dime. I do this even with the largest of leaves, some originally bigger than one's hand. I do this primarily to save space, but another benefit is forcing the rooted leaf to produce roots and babies, not a larger leaf blade.

Question: What do the numbers on a fertilizer mean? For example, a 12-36-14 formula?

Answer: The three numbers appearing on a fertilizer's label represent the percentage contained of the three major elements: nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. In addition, most fertilizers contain various secondary and trace elements, which may or may not be listed on the package. I'll limit myself to the original question, since a more detailed answer would require a very lengthy explanation.

As simply as possible — nitrogen promotes healthy foliage development, phosphorus promotes root, bud, and blossom development, and potassium promotes general plant health. For example: fertilizers referred to as "blossom boosters" have relatively high phosphorus content. An example would be

one having a 1-6-5 formula. On the other hand, fertilizers like fish emulsion (5-1-1) are considered to be very good for promoting lush, green, foliage. A fertilizer such as "Root-n-Bloom" (5-50-17), encourages rapid root and blossom development.

Each different fertilizer serves its own purpose. Many exhibitors will change fertilizer formulas depending on what kind of growth they would like to encourage. A high nitrogen fertilizer, for example, might be used while a showplant is disbudded, to encourage greater foliage growth. Once disbudding is stopped, switching to a high phosphorus fertilizer would encourage production of flower buds and blossoms for show. Unfortunately, what formulas to use, and when, is often learned only by experience growing under your specific cultural conditions. If it works, stick with it.

As a rule, however, African violets prefer a relatively "balanced" fertilizer, one having moderate levels of all three major elements. Using extreme formulas such as 1-6-5 or 5-1-1 exclusively, can produce plants with yellowed-foliage or lack of bloom, respectively. Also remember that your soil mix also provides some nutrients ("soilless" mixes provide very little), as does the water used.

These will vary from grower to grower. Lastly, be certain that your soil (with water) has a pH level that is between 6 and 7. At extreme pH levels, your plant can't properly process the nutrients provided by your fertilizing.

Question: I have a variety with "girl" foliage and would like to enter it in our local show. I've been told that this foliage can be difficult to grow. Can you explain?

Answer: The *Judges and Exhibitors Handbook* describes "girl" foliage as "deeply scalloped, with white to yellow markings at the base of each leaf." It has nothing to do with the sex of the plant (a violet can be either parent), and instead, refers to its ancestry, 'Blue Girl' being the first variety having this kind of foliage. The "deep scalloping" and usually curly nature of the foliage is what makes it difficult to deal with. Leaf blades are rarely smooth and flat, so that good symmetry is harder to achieve.

They can make good show plants, though, if the grower is diligent in keeping unnecessary rows of outer leaves removed. Doing this allows the inner rows of leaves some room to lay flat, and accommodates their curly nature. If outer leaves are not regularly pruned away, the plant takes on a "bunched" appearance. Not only does this spoil symmetry, but it inhibits the production of flower buds. These varieties certainly are more work, but the foliage is certainly very attractive and, properly grown, can be well worth the small inconvenience.

Question: There are so many different soil recipes. Can you

suggest one that can be used with wick watering?

Answer: "Wick watering" is a means of providing constant moisture to the soil. Just as a wick carries oil to the flame in an oil lamp, it can carry water and nutrients to a pot of soil — the process is the same. Jim discussed this and other watering methods in the July 1992 issue of the *AVM*.

Because the soil is kept constantly moist with this method, the soil used should be very light and porous, more so than with interval-watering. Additional perlite and/or vermiculite (or other soil lighteners such as styrofoam beads, charcoal, etc.) needs to be added.

For a number of years I wick watered. The soil mix I used was approximately the following: 40% peat, 30% perlite, and 30% coarse vermiculite. Though this is just one possible recipe, you should note that it is *very* light — over half is vermiculite and perlite. I always made it a practice to let the water reservoir "run dry" every so often so that the soil was allowed to dry somewhat.

Keep in mind that it's important to have "air" in the soil as well as water. If the soil isn't adequately aerated, roots and plants can rot.

Let me finish the column with some very useful information

passed along to me by a member of my local club. For those growers using a soil mix containing topsoil, and who wish to sterilize the mix, this is very important. To properly sterilize the soil by heating, the temperature of the soil mix must be maintained at a *minimum* temperature of 180 degrees F., for *at least* two hours! This refers to the temperature of the *soil*, not the oven. If necessary, insert a thermometer into the soil for an accurate reading.

This member discovered that the source of her recurring soil mealybug problem was contaminated soil. Though she was baking soil in an oven at 200°, the temperature of the *soil* never got high enough to kill these pests. The problem has now been solved with proper heating of her soil mix. "Unless it smells," she says, "you need to bake it hotter or longer."

Personally, this is one reason I use a "soiless" mix, if only for the convenience. Though some do it, I would strongly advise against sterilizing soil by adding toxic chemicals. A former (not late) member of my local club, who became quite ill, discovered that her illness was the result of handling her chemically-sterilized soil mix. If you add anything toxic to your mix, please wear gloves when handling it.

Be a good guest ...

Please remember that Lancaster County's plain people are not actors, but simply people who chose to live differently. Please respect their privacy and refrain from interrupting their daily routine and trespassing on their land.

In addition, many Amish believe that photographs violate biblical commandments. Please refrain from taking photographs.

REGISTRATION REPORT



IRIS KEATING
149 LORETTO COURT
CLAREMONT, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

REGISTRATIONS

Nancy Johnston - Bakersfield, CA

- ***APPLE ANNIE** (7759) 8/6/92 (N. Johnston)
Single-semidouble dark red and coral large ruffled star. Variegated dark green, pink and cream, ovate, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***BRIDAL LADY** (7760) 8/6/92 (N. Johnston)
Single-semidouble white sticktite large ruffled bell. Variegated medium green and cream, heart-shaped, serrated, girl foliage. **Miniature**
- ***IRISH LINEN** (7761) 8/6/92 (N. Johnston)
Semidouble white star/green edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- ***LITTLE URCHIN** (7762) 8/6/92 (N. Johnston)
Double light fuchsia star/light pink ruffled edge. Variegated medium green and cream, heart-shaped, quilted. **Miniature**
- ***MY TRUE LOVE** (7763) 8/6/92 (N. Johnston)
Semidouble dark purple-blue star. Dark green, pointed, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***SNOW TIPS** (7764) 8/6/92 (N. Johnston)
Semidouble dark lavender-fuchsia star/white tips. Variegated medium green and cream, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- ***SOMETHING TO LOVE** (7765) 8/6/92 (N. Johnston)
Semidouble dark pink-purple shaded star/wide light pink ruffled edge. Variegated dark green, pink and cream, ovate, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**

Paul Sansoucy - Fabreville, Laval, Quebec, Canada

- ***SANSOUCY' CANDIDE** (7766) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy)
Semidouble pink ruffled. Dark green, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**
- ***SANSOUCY' CELESTE** (7767) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy)
Double blue/thin white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- ***SANSOUCY' COCO** (7768) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy)
Double blue ruffled/variable white-green edge. Variegated medium green, white and cream, plain, quilted. **Large**
- ***SANSOUCY' COURTOISE** (7769) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy)
Single-semidouble purple frilled. Variegated medium green and white, plain, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- ***SANSOUCY' DELICATE** (7770) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy)
Single white. Variegated medium green, pink and cream, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**
- ***SANSOUCY' DISTINCTION** (7771) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy)
Semidouble pink two-tone sticktite frilled star. Medium green, plain/red back. **Large**
- ***SANSOUCY' FIDELE** (7772) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy)
Single light pink sticktite. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Large**
- ***SANSOUCY' JULIE-MARIE** (7773) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy)
Semidouble white sticktite star. Medium green, plain, quilted, serrated. **Large**
- ***SANSOUCY' MODESTE** (7774) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy)
Semidouble-double medium blue. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***SANSOUCY' NATUREL** (7775) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy)
Single-semidouble blue sticktite. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

- ***SANSOUCY' OLYMPE** (7776) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Single-semidouble blue ruffled star. Dark green, plain, serrated/red back. **Large**
- ***SANSOUCY' SEREINE** (7777) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Single-semidouble white ruffled star. Dark green, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**
- ***SANSOUCY' SPLENDIDE** (7778) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Semidouble pink ruffled. Dark green, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**

Marie Burns - Baltimore, MD

- ***LADY BLUE** (7779) 8/13/92 (M. Burns) Semidouble-double light blue ruffled star/variable thin white edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy/red back. **Large**
- ***OCEANEYES** (7780) 8/13/92 (M. Burns) Single-semidouble medium blue star/darker eye, white wavy edge, variable green. Medium-dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy/red back. **Large**

Helen Bateson - Lexington, MA

- ***OLGA MAC LEAN** (7781) 8/25/92 (H. Bateson) Single-semidouble light pink star. Medium green, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

Marie Beeman - Healdsburg, CA

- ***MARIE'S BODEGA LOVER** (7782) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Single medium blue sticktite ruffled pansy. Variegated dark green, rose and cream, pointed, ruffled, scalloped. **Large**
- ***MARIE'S BODEGA WATERCOLOR** (7783) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Double pink, rose and white shaded ruffled star. Mosaic variegated dark green, pink, rose and cream, plain, quilted, hairy, wavy. **Large**
- ***MARIE'S COLLEEN SUE** (7784) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Semidouble rose-pink large frilled star/crimson tips, thin edge. Variegated dark green, cream and some pink, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, scalloped. **Large**
- ***MARIE'S LADY BETH** (7785) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Semidouble peach-pink star. Variegated black-green and cream, plain, ovate, hairy, wavy. **Large**
- ***MARIE'S PINK BOUQUET** (7786) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Double pink ruffled pansy. Mosaic variegated green, pink and white, ruffled, scalloped, girl foliage. **Standard**
- ***MARIE'S SIR BYRON** (7787) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Double fuchsia ruffled star/near-black

top petals. Variegated black-green and ivory, plain, ovate, glossy, scalloped. **Large**

- ***MARIE'S TOPSY TURVY** (7788) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Double bright fuchsia frilled pansy. Variegated dark green, cream and rose, ruffled, scalloped, girl foliage. **Semiminature**
- ***MARIE'S WINDTRIPPER** (7789) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Single-semidouble pink frilled star. Mosaic variegated dark green and cream, ruffled, girl foliage. **Standard**

- ***WINE COUNTRY** (7790) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Single-semidouble wine ruffled pansy. Mosaic variegated dark green, rose and white, ovate, glossy, ruffled, scalloped. **Standard**

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

- ***ANTONIA** (7791) 9/9/92 (D. Harrington) Semidouble-double pink ruffled pansy/darker eye, thin green edge on top petals. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, ruffled. **Standard**
- ***BISHOP** (7792) 9/9/92 (D. Harrington) Semidouble rose pansy/green ruffled edge. Light green, heart-shaped, quilted, wavy. **Standard**
- ***CURLIE WERLIE** (7793) 9/9/92 (D. Harrington) Single fuchsia sticktite star/pink ruffled edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, ruffled. **Standard**
- ***DAFFY DAN** (7794) 9/9/92 (D. Harrington) Double dark pink ruffled pansy. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, wavy. **Standard**
- ***NEW PRAGUE** (7795) 9/9/92 (D. Harrington) Single pink and rose shaded sticktite pansy/green edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

Jean Stokes - Sacramento, CA

- ***FORTUITOUS BABY** (7796) 9/19/92 (J. Stokes) Single rose-red bell. Medium green, quilted. **Miniature trailer**
- ***PLEASANT BABY** (7797) 9/19/92 (J. Stokes) Double white/pink eye, edge. Light green, quilted. **Semiminature**
- ***SPECKLED BABY** (7798) 9/19/92 (J. Stokes) Double pink/blue fantasy. Medium green, quilted. **Miniature trailer**

Dorothy Benge - Metairie, LA

- ***BLAINE LOUISE** (7799) 9/22/92 (D. Benge) Semidouble rose-pink two-tone frilled. Variegated green and white, ovate, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

Nancy Johnston - Bakersfield, CA

***KISS OF POCAHONTAS** (7800) 9/24/92 (N. Johnston) Semidouble dark coral-red ruffled large/darker center, veins. Variegated dark and light green and cream, ovate, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

***LITTLE SOCIALITE** (7801) 9/24/92 (N. Johnston) Double hot pink ruffled. Variegated dark green and cream, quilted, serrated. **Miniature**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Marie Burns - Baltimore, MD

* Bewitched * Jungle Print * Lady Love * Sparkle Pretty * Star-Spangled Lady * Star Sparkler

Sherry Jesberger - St. Marys, PA

* Alabaster Rose * Meadow Mist * Pennsylvania Dawn * Porcelain Lace * Sunday Lace

NAME RESERVATION RENEWALS

Alma Hummer - San Antonio, TX

* Florence Walker

Don Ness - White Bear Lake, MN

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Ness) * Angel Babe * Angel Doll * Angel Frost * Angel Lace, * Blue Pearl * Cascade Blue * Coral Frost * Cotton Candy * Cranberry Swirl * Crinkle Blue * Dynamite * Foggy Blues * Frosted Freckles * His Glory * Itsy Bitsy * Lavender Frost * Lucky Me * Peach Glow * Pink Patches * Plum Dandy * Sassy Lassy * Sizzlin' Red * Smokey Blues * Twinkle Pink * Velvet Lace

Dixie African Violet Society To Hold Annual Convention/Show

CAROL SCHRECK
2055 S. Floral Ave. #328
Bartow, FL 33830-7114

The Dixie African Violet Society will hold its annual convention and show at the Sheraton Orlando North Hotel and Towers at I-4 and the Maitland Interchange, March 18-20, 1993, hosted by the African Violet Council of Florida.

Dixie AVS was formed in 1956 and is composed of African violet growers, both amateur and commercial, from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia with a few members in other locations.

The theme of the show will be "Dixie Dances Across the South," with terrariums, dish

gardens, natural gardens, and artistic designs using cut African violet blossoms as well as plants, all following the show theme. Persons wishing to have entries in the show are required to be members of the DAVS and be registered for the convention.

The Commercial Sales Room will be open all of the above dates with plants, growing supplies and gift items available to the public as well as those attending the convention. The show will be open to the

public on Saturday, March 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Programs will be presented on design by Bob Green of Rockledge; horticulture by Phyllis King of Largo; and hybridizing by Barbara Sisk of Miami. The judging school will be taught by Bill Foster of Mesquite, Texas. In order to attend the programs or the judging school, you must be registered for the convention.

For more information, contact: Carol Schreck at 813-533-7288.

Future AVSA Convention Dates

Denver, CO - May 23 - 28, 1994

St. Louis, MO - May 22 - 27, 1995

Atlanta, GA - May 20 - 25, 1996

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 21 - 24 MISSOURI —

The Third Annual St. Louis Flower Show, "America Abloom — A Celebration of Regional Styles in American Gardening," sponsored by the Junior League of St. Louis at the Cervantes Convention Center, downtown St. Louis. Adults, \$6 (\$5 in advance), children 6-12, \$2; 5 and under free. All proceeds collected by the Junior League of St. Louis will be used to train volunteers to work in the community. For more information, 314-997-3407.

FEBRUARY 6 — ARIZONA —

Desert Sun AVS' show/sale, "Celebrate with Violets," Cristown Mall, 1703 W. Bethany Home Rd., Phoenix, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FEBRUARY 12 - 13 ILLINOIS

— African Violet Fanciers, Inc. sale/display, Colonial Village Mall, Alpine & Newburg, Rockford. Feb. 12, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Feb. 13, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information: Florise Hogan, 1220 31st St., Rockford 61108, ph. 815-397-2000.

FEBRUARY 12 - 14 FLORIDA

— The Upper Pinellas AVC of Clearwater's 34th annual show, "A Carousel of Violets," Bay Area Outlet Mall, East Bay Drive, State Road 688 at U.S. 19, Clearwater, during mall hours. Mollie Howell, show chair.

FEBRUARY 13 - 14 MISSOURI

— AVC of Greater Kansas City's 42nd annual show, "My Funny Violet Valentine," Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania Ave., Kansas City, MO. Both days, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. David Buttram, show chair; Patty Hart, president.

FEBRUARY 13 - 14 LOUISIANA

— Rayne AVS' 13th annual show/sale, St. Joseph Family

Center, 406 S. Adams Ave., Rayne. Feb. 13, 1 - 3 p.m.; Feb. 14, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free admission.

FEBRUARY 13 - 14 FLORIDA

— First Lakeland AVS' 13th annual show/sale, "Natures Paint Palette," Southwest Junior High School cafeteria. Feb. 13, noon - 9 p.m.; Feb. 14, noon - 5:30 p.m. Free admission and parking. Christel Collier, 813-686-9059, show chair; Barbara Courson, 813-644-5405, co-chair.

FEBRUARY 14 CALIFORNIA —

The AVS of San Francisco will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Feb. 14, from 2 - 5 p.m. at the San Francisco County Fair Building, North Avenue and Lincoln Way. All African violet friends are invited. For more information and R.S.V.P., contact, Gary R. Beck, event chair, 415-771-2342.

FEBRUARY 19 - 20 FLORIDA

— Central Florida AVS show/sale, "Horoscope of Violets," Beardall Senior Center, 800 S. Delaney St., Orlando. Feb. 19, noon - 4 p.m.; Feb. 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission. For information: Evelyn Brigs, show chair, 407-322-1409.

FEBRUARY 26 - 28 FLORIDA

— Tampa AVS' 18th annual show, "Violets Ride the Magic Carpet," Eastlake Square Mall, 5701 E. Hillsborough Ave., Tampa. Feb. 26, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Feb. 27, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Feb. 28, noon - 5 p.m. For more information: Cheryl Hukle, chair, Rt. 9, Box 5, 5520 Wilkins Road, Tampa 33610 or call 813-626-6817.

FEBRUARY 27 - 28 KANSAS —

Wichita AV Study Club's show/sale, "Rainbow of Violets," Botanica, 701 Amidon, Wichita. Feb. 27, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Feb. 28, 1 - 4 p.m. Helen Barrett, 316-683-2877 and Donna Breen, 316-682-9293, show co-chairs.

FEBRUARY 27 - 28 OKLAHOMA

— The AVS of Greater Tulsa's 17th annual show/sale, "Violets and all that Jazz," Tulsa Garden Center,

2435 South Peoria, Tulsa. Both days, noon - 5 p.m. For information: Pat Sutton, show chair, 918-622-4505.

MARCH 5 - 6 TEXAS —

Spring Branch AVC of Houston's 15th annual show/sale, Fair Haven United Methodist Church, 1330 Gessner (at Long Point), Houston. Mar. 5, 2 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 6, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Free admission. Judy Carter, show chair. For information: Ann Miller, 713-783-7668.

MARCH 6 - 7 CALIFORNIA —

San Mateo County AVS show/sale, Howard Johnson Hotel, 485 Veterans Blvd. (101 Freeway and Whipple), Redwood City. Mar. 6, 2 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission, public invited. For information: 415-593-2998.

MARCH 6 - 7 ARIZONA —

The Tucson AVS' 36th annual show/sale, "Country Violets," Park Mall Shopping Center (center Court), 5870 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson. Mar. 6, noon - 9 p.m.; Mar. 7, noon - 5 p.m. Free admission. For information: Barbara Fuller, chair, 602-790-3439 or Ruth Over, publicity co-chair, 602-795-9121.

MARCH 12 - 13 LOUISIANA —

Top Choice AVS' 21st annual show/sale, "Violets: A Family Affair," Pierremont Mall, 4801 Line Ave., Shreveport. Mar. 12, 1 - 7 p.m.; Mar. 13, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For information: Vivian Kennedy, 318-687-0127 or Ruby Parker, 318-636-4711.

MARCH 12 - 13 NEW JERSEY

— Bergen County AVS show/sale, "NEWSFLASH!" Old North Reformed Church, Washington & Madison avenues, Dumont. Mar. 12, 3 - 9 p.m.; Mar. 13, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Everyone invited, free admission. Linda LoPresti & Ernest Di Liberti, co-chairs. For information: 201-265-4410 or 201-261-1541.

MARCH 12 - 14 MINNESOTA —

Minnesota AVS show/sale, "Violets from a Country Garden," Maplewood Mall (White Bear Ave. just south of Interstate 694), Maplewood. Mar. 12, 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.;

Mar. 13, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Mar. 14, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Public invited, free admission. For information: Barb Wohlferd, show chair, 612-426-4868.

MARCH 13 - 14 FLORIDA — AVS of Pensacola show/sale, Bayview Community Center, 19th Ave. & Lloyd St., Pensacola. Mar. 13, 2 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 14, noon - 5 p.m. Louise Merritt, show chair, 904-476-8508.

MARCH 13 - 14 CALIFORNIA — The Pomona Valley AVS show/sale, "Holidays With Violets," Church of the Brethren, 2175 Bonita Ave., LaVerne. Mar. 13, 1 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 14, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Everyone invited.

MARCH 13 - 14 TEXAS — The Moonlight AVS of Fort Worth's show, "Violets Face the Future," Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, Fort Worth.

MARCH 13 - 14 CALIFORNIA — South Coast AVS show/sale, "Violets Go Irish," South Coast Botanical Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Mar. 13, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Mar. 14, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information: Ralph Breden (310) 373-5697.

MARCH 13 - 14 LOUISIANA — Atchafalaya VS of America's show/sale, "Violets, A Smash Hit," Municipal Auditorium, Myrtle St., Morgan City. Mar. 13, 2 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 14, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission. George Ramirez, show chair/president. For information: Donnie Clement, 2323 Cedar St., Morgan City 70380, ph. 504-384-6852 or 504-385-2890.

MARCH 18 - 20 FLORIDA — Dixie AVS' annual convention/sale hosted by African Violet Council of Florida, Sheraton Orlando North Hotel and Towers, I-4 and the Maitland Interchange, Orlando. Open to the public, Mar. 20, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission. For information: Carol Schreck, 813-533-7288.

MARCH 19 - 20 ILLINOIS — African Violet Fanciers, Inc. sale/

display/show, North Towne Mall, N. Main & Riverside, Rockford. For information: Florise Hogan, 815-397-2000.

MARCH 19 - 20 FLORIDA — The AVS of Fort Walton Beach's 13th annual show/sale, "Violets Tour Florida," Santa Rosa Mall, 300 Mary Esther Blvd., Mary Esther. Mar. 19, 2 - 9 p.m.; Mar. 20, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission. For information: Betty Cassell, show chair, 128 Merle Circle, Fort Walton Beach 32548, ph. 904-862-2043.

MARCH 20 - 21 NEW YORK — Sweet Water AVS' 18th annual show/sale, "101 Years of Violets," West Sayville Fire Department Auditorium, Montauk Highway, West Sayville. Mar. 20, 2 - 5 p.m.; Mar. 21, noon - 5 p.m. Pat Taylor, show chair. Admission: donation. For information: 516-589-2724.

MARCH 20 - 21 TEXAS — The Moonlight AVS and The Fort Worth AVS' sale, Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, Fort Worth.

MARCH 20 - 21 TEXAS — The First Austin AVS show/sale, "African Violets in Fantasy Land," Austin Area Garden Center, Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin. Both days, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission. For information: Mary Beale, show chair, 512-453-2732.

MARCH 20 - 21 TEXAS — The Fort Worth AVS' 29th annual show, "Violets Around the World," Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Garden Dr., Fort Worth. Mar. 20, 1 - 4 p.m.; Mar. 21, 1 - 4 p.m. Free admission. Joanne Burger, president; Alex Early, show chair.

MARCH 26 - 27 MISSOURI — M-K-O AVS show, "Rainbow of Violets," 502 Pearl, Joplin. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Debra Foster and Doris Carson, co-chairs.

MARCH 27 CONNECTICUT — The Windsor AVS show/sale, "Adventures in Nature," Windsor Public Library, 323 Broad St., Windsor. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Public is

welcome, free admission. For information: Vivian Hiltz, 237 E. Robbins Ave., Newtonington 06111, ph. 203-666-3573.

MARCH 27 - 28 MICHIGAN — Border Cities AVC's 41st annual show/sale, "Carnival of Violets," St. James Church, 241 Pearson St. (between 8 & 9 Mile roads, west of Woodward), Ferndale. Both days, noon - 5 p.m. Donation - 75¢. Adaline Nathan, 313-474-0075; Ellen Platz, 313-278-5030.

MARCH 27 - 28 OREGON — Portland AVS show/sale, Russellville Grange Hall, 121 N. E. Prescott St. (behind Oregon Craft, which is on 122nd Ave.). Both days, 1 - 5 p.m. \$1 admission. For information: Jeanette Florke, president, 26185 S. Hillock Burn Rd., Estacada 97023, ph. 503-630-7790.

MARCH 27 - 28 COLORADO — Rocky Mountain AV Council's show/sale, "Violet Elegance," Denver Botanic Gardens, John Mitchell Hall, 1005 York St., Denver. Mar. 27, 1 - 4 p.m.; Mar. 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$3 admission/ \$1.50 for seniors. Shirley Mitchell, show chair, 303-482-7486.

JUDGING SCHOOLS

JANUARY 30 TEXAS — The First Austin AVS will be sponsoring a judging school at the Austin Area Garden Center. Frances Young will be the teacher. For information: Dolores Gibbs, 512-392-5464.

FEBRUARY 6 CALIFORNIA — The AVSA Judges Council of Northern California will be sponsoring a judging school at the County Fair Building, formerly Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Sunny Rosenfeld will be the teacher. For information: Fred Grafelman, chair, 415-664-1993.

Send "Coming Events" Notices to:
Jane Birge
P. O. Box 1401
Beaumont, TX 77704

Creating ... with Fredette

IRENE FREDETTE
1545 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517



Q: *Why didn't my cross produce any seedlings with mosaic variegation like that of the seed-bearing parent?*

A: Though the inheritance of variegation is a maternal one, it is not totally predictable with mosaic types. Often only a small percentage of the seedlings will be variegated. Be a determined matchmaker and keep trying until you succeed.

Q: *Which of the new yellow violets will you be using in crosses?*

A: I am not planning to use any of the new "yellows" in crosses. Since I have not seen all of the new "yellow" introductions in bloom, I would be interested in hearing from readers who can offer objective descriptions based on their own observations and experience.

Q: *Is there anything, other than chemical sprays, which can help me to control the pesky thrips which are interfering with my hybridizing?*

A: A new growing mix has been developed to control or suppress pythium, rhizoctonia, and fusarium for 6 to 9 months. Even more interesting is the fact that it contains a biological control agent that controls thrips and a number of other soil-inhabiting insects. According to its manufacturer,

the potting medium's insect suppressing capabilities will last indefinitely. It alone cannot eradicate an infestation. But in combination with insecticides, it seems a good idea to try a growing medium which is hostile to "bugs" and friendly to plants. Thrips have become such a widespread problem and some species are so hardy that a multi-pronged attack seems feasible. The Neem product is a most promising spray which I have described in the November issue of this magazine.

Q: *I have several new seedlings which I want to photograph and I have been told to "color enhance" them. Can you explain?*

A: "Color enhancement" means altering the colors so that they appear more eye-catching or desirable or dramatic. The most common methods involve the use of special lights and/or filters. I see no problem with enhancing the color of moonlight or a sunset for dramatic appeal, since these are not products offered for sale. I do not recommend color enhancement of saleable merchandise and decry its use in photographing violets because it is a form of deception or fakery. It is misleading and unfair to the buyer

and it undermines the credibility of the seller.

Q: *Is it possible to cross violets with other plants such as primroses?*

A: No, except possibly in some laboratory specializing in genetic engineering. Conventional means will result in failure. One cannot daub some rose pollen on a sunflower and get "sun roses" or hope for a litter of "bunny dogs" after introducing a poodle to a rabbit.

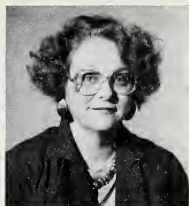
Q: *If I cross two plants with different types of variegation, what can I expect?*

A: Variegation like that of the "mama" plant. The pollen from the "papa" plant can transmit traits such as blossom color, leaf type, or size of plant but not variegation.

Q: *I noticed that some of my newly sprouted seedlings are more husky than others. Are these the best ones and should the weaker or smaller ones be discarded?*

A: Excessive vigor is not always an indicator of excellence. Some of the large ones can be attractive but so can some of the little ones. It is not unusual to find a semiminature or two in a group of large siblings. Therefore, it is a good idea to grow out a sampling of several types so that you can better evaluate your cross.

(Editor's Note: This will be Irene's last column, as she has resigned her position. I accept her resignation with great sadness. It was wonderful having someone with her knowledge, writing for the AVM. We all wish you well in your next endeavors.)



A FAMILY PORTRAIT

GEORGENE ALBRECHT
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Episcia 'Cleopatra'

Can you remember the first time you saw *E. 'Cleopatra'*? Very few plants can trigger that sort of awe. Each time this column deadline is due, I go to my light garden and find someone to feature. Cleo is showing off today. I have kept her from producing stolons and she is about 14 inches wide. I regret that I can't find a larger, round container for her. She does not seem to mind that her leaves are touching the glass.

Although I have grown her out of a container, may I encourage you to keep her in a large glass container where she will be happy in 95 to 100% humidity. The most luxuriant foliage is produced when a low-nitrogen fertilizer is applied to a light, porous growing medium. Avoid touching the delicate foliage with water or fertilizer solution. Give her lots of light. She loves to be warm and cozy — at 75° or above.

To keep her foliage from touching the soil mix, place a layer of damp, whole sphagnum moss over the entire area. It is a good idea to place a layer of this moss under the soil before you plant her. She seems to produce many stolons when she has dim light. If you see brown pigmentation starting on a leaf, remove it. At times, certain conditions will

cause her to revert to a bronze-green foliage. If it is allowed to grow, it will overpower the pink foliage and you will lose the pink pigmentation.

When watering, try to let the water run down the side of the container, away from the leaves. Use rain water, if possible. Natural fertilizers, such as concentrated kelp and fish emulsion are excellent, but

regular, dilute, water soluble fertilizers will do. If you must use tap water on your episcias, allow it to settle for a day or so. Episcias do not like fluoride or chloride.

Repot them in fresh soil mix every eight or nine months. Remove the lower part of the root system, and set the plant lower in the new soil. Part of the crown stem may also have to be



Episcia 'Cleopatra'

removed if the plant is elongated. If too much condensation develops on your container, vent it. A layer of plastic wrap can be vented by piercing it with a needle several times.

PLANT TALK

During the summer, my *fuchsia* were invaded by white fly, which also spread to my *achimenes*. I sprayed them all with Safer's Insecticidal Soap and was very surprised at the foliar damage to the gesneriads. I sprayed in proper light and temperature, yet, the leaf tissue turned brown. Perhaps I should have rinsed the soap from the plants immediately, instead of waiting an hour or two.

There seems to be a renewed interest in flower and garden shows. The famous Chelsea Flower Show in London, has inspired a similar show in the United States. In Rancho Palos Verdes, California, February 6 to 9, 1993, a Chelsea America show is planned. For information, call (310) 648-6663. Another show is scheduled February 20 to 23, 1993, in Palm Beach, Florida. Their phone number is (212) 207-1774.

POWDERY MILDEW

The wonderful world of the hobby grower has brought us another gem. Baking soda seems to be very effective in combating powdery mildew. This horrid mildew can become resistant to fungicides. A new word—biocompatible—means that research has found a method that is kind to our environment. Rose growers have been reporting this find for years.

Tests using baking soda as a fungicide, with Safer's Soap used as a surfactant, is very

effective. Soaps alone have little effect on mildew. A weekly spraying of three teaspoons of baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) plus the addition of Sunspray, an oil spray manufactured by Safer, should be followed. This very fine oil acts as a sticker for the baking soda. I do not know if the oil spray damages the foliage of gesneriads. However, I do know that it is very mild. Let us know if you have had success here.

DISBUDDING

At a recent meeting of our Pittsburgh Violet Society, we were discussing the process of disbudding. Several very well known growers tell us that they just remove the entire bloom stalk right down to the axil. Others, including Pauline

Bartholomew, recommend leaving 1/8 inch of peduncle so that side growth results. Some varieties will send up two peduncles while others will send up just one. The idea is to get one huge surge of bloom by delaying, then promoting, bloom. The largest bloom stalks seem to be produced in this manner. A bloom booster formula of fertilizer can be used at the same time.

For the first time, I am growing some real show plants. What a challenge!

I'm not home enough to be consistent. I guess I'm not alone—everyone seems so very busy. Let me know if you have found time-saving methods to grow show plants.

Send Your Choices

FLOYD LAWSON

1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

Every year our best growers and hybridizers advise beginning, and even experienced, growers to check the Best Varieties List for the surest and most consistent plants to add to their collections. The advice is good, because the Best Variety List is the compilation of those varieties which have performed across the nation, in the many different growing conditions, and with many different approaches to growing. The Best Variety List is YOUR list of those plants which have done the best for YOU.

Which are your favorites? Which would you encourage others to buy and grow?

Between now and April 1, 1993, every member of AVSA

should take time to sit down and make a list of 25 of your favorite plants. We would like to have every member's opinion. The lists may be sent singly, or as a part of an affiliate's summary.

If you do decide to make only one list for the club, list all plants voted on and how many votes each received.

Also enclose the total number of members voting, as well as the name of the affiliate.

Thanks to all of you for your help in making this valuable tool a reality. Please send your list to:

Floyd Lawson
1100 W. Huntington Dr.,
#21
Arcadia, CA 91007



mini-tidbits

FLORENCE NAYLOR
2647 Harbor Boulevard
Ventura, CA 93001

It is time once again to vote for your 25 favorite miniature and semiminature African violets. This gives us a feel for what is deemed "best" across the country, out of the hundreds of choices available to us. Most of the top 25 plants will grow well for most types of climates and growing conditions. Include trailers as well as single crown plants in your lists.

Individual votes as well as club votes are welcome. If you do vote as a club, include the total number of contributors to the tally as well as how many votes for each variety listed. One thing that worked well last year at club meetings was for one person to collect individual lists, put them all in one envelope and send the lot to me. Individuals who don't belong to a group or who missed the meeting when the tally was taken, are encouraged to send their personal list to me. The greater number of participants will produce a truer cross section of what is being grown with the greatest satisfaction around the world. I appreciate all your input and look forward to the outcome.

The new year sees many of us preparing for our spring shows and the AVSA convention. It is also a time of "resolutions" to do better than before — at something. This year it is my resolution to have a regular watering schedule so my plants don't feel

like it's feast or famine. Most of my plants are watered either Texas-Style or by wick or a combination of both. With Texas-Style watering, one needs to be very regular at watering to achieve the best results. In California, and in my environment, I need to water every three days whether they need it or not, so that the saucers are never dry. I water with a constant feed fertilizer such as Schultz liquid or Volkmann's 15-30-15. Peters 20-20-20 works well, too.

One advantage to Texas-Style watering, is that individual saucers isolate the root system of each plant. Thus, the transfer of soil or water-borne diseases are minimized. It also provides a more humid atmosphere around the plant since a larger water surface area is exposed for evaporation around the leaf system. By rotating the fertilizer each week, for three weeks, followed by clear water (no fertilizer), every fourth week, my plants get a varied amount of trace minerals as well as the usual nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium. Since I water with distilled water, I also add calcium and magnesium as the sulfate, carbonate, or phosphate salt.

My major problem has been to be consistent in my watering program. By wick watering, I got into some bad habits. Since wick watering is usually over a

large reservoir, I'd forget to check the water level in the reservoir — too many times. When the foliage was limp from lack of water, I'd notice that the plants needed water — and drown them. My husband, Spence, always thought I was stress-testing my plants when this happened. I have lost some plants by overwatering after letting them become too dry for too long. On the other hand, I am constantly amazed at how resilient African violets really are. Many of my bone dry plants refuse to give up, in spite of me. One other problem I have in the monsoon or drought scenario is the formation of many suckers on these plants. It is the natural survival instinct of the plant, when threatened by extinction, to put out a lot of suckers. By becoming a more consistent waterer I should have fewer suckers to scrape off my plants. Lastly, by watering every three days, I will pay more attention to what is going on with my plants and will stop problems before they get out of hand.

**24-Hour
AVSA
FAX Line
(409)
839-4329**

SHOWS & JUDGES

BILL FOSTER
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150



HAPPY NEW YEAR! What happened to 1992? Well, I know a lot of my time has been spent at the typewriter, writing letters, trying to explain why we had two revisions to the Handbook in 1992. I will try once more to explain and then let's put it behind us and move on into the new year, and after the changes in this column, we will hope that we can wait a while before making further changes.

Our supply of Handbooks was running low at the beginning of 1992, but we knew of a number of changes that would be voted on and likely to pass at the Columbus convention. We had hoped to hold off on a reprint until after the convention so we could include all the changes since the May 1990 revision, plus the changes decided at the convention.

In mid-January we started receiving "demands" for the Handbook. We did not realize that there were so many members that did not have Handbooks and were strongly requesting that they have one to study for the Judges exam to be held at the convention.

If we only had a hundred or so books reprinted, the cost to you would have to triple. To keep the books at an affordable price, we had to order at least 1,000 books. To try and meet the demand, it was decided that we should go ahead with the

reprint and include the updates that had taken place since May 1990; then put out another revision after the convention. We knew that the new rule on AVSA Collections would pass and that it would need a lot of revision space. So, we hastily made the revisions in February, reprinted the book and made another revision after the convention. Perhaps the only people who are happy are those members that needed the Handbook for the exam in Columbus! We apologize for the confusion this has caused. We did what we felt was best at the time. Hopefully, this will never occur again.

We get a lot of mail from members asking, "Why did you change this?" "It worked well for our club the old way." Just so that you will know, the Shows & Judges Committee does not just arbitrarily dream up changes. The suggestions for changes come from you, the AVSA members. When a number of members, affiliates, or councils write and suggest changes, those changes are considered and sometimes made. Often, it takes a long time and a lot of study to make the decision to change. Look how long it took to get the change on AVSA Collections?

While we are on the subject of changes and corrections, here are a few for you to make to your Handbook ... Page 14, on the

description for a Star blossom — please change the word "loves" to "lobes." On Page 37, under Show Chairman, please look to the last word in the first sentence of the third paragraph and correct the spelling of "chairman." On Page 47, under Best-in-Show, Second-Best-in-Show, or Third-Best-in-Show, the first sentence should read: The Best-in-Show is the highest scoring African violet in the show and should be chosen from Best-in-Class winners or from the Collection classes. All we are doing here is striking out the word "plant" and replacing it with "African violet." This change must be made to eliminate the possibility of someone interpreting this to mean that one of the "other" gesneriads would be eligible to win Best-in-Show. Many people look for loopholes! On Page 82, look to the bottom of the page, in bold print, and change to read: **NOTE: ONLY ONE COLLECTION MAY BE ENTERED IN EACH COLLECTION CLASS BY AN AVSA MEMBER.** Elsewhere in the Handbook this is stated, but to make sure that everyone is aware, it should be changed here, also. On Page 86, under **GENERAL RULES FOR JUDGES**, look to item 5 and strike out "except for individuals taking their first judges' exam." This is stated on Page 87. As stated in the September 1992 Shows & Judges column, a student judge, taking their first exam, must have won three blue ribbons. This is effective January 1, 1993.

For those of you registering judging schools, remember that effective January 1, 1993, a \$25 registration fee is required.

Convention Tours



Tour #1 Monday, April 19, 1993

Leave: 8:00 am
Return: 3:00 pm

MENNONITE TOUR AND MILLERS SMORGASBORD (meal is included)

Join us for a most unique and beautiful tour. First we will visit the Mennonite Information Center and see a short film, "A Morning Song." This film gives a brief background and understanding of Amish and Mennonite history.

Our bus will then be joined by a knowledgeable and skillful tour guide who will take us off the beaten path of commercialism to the back roads where you will see the land and people for which Lancaster is famous.

Among the many things you may see (each tour is different) are country bake shops, water wheels and windmills, Amish schools, farmers markets, covered bridges, candle barns, chair shops, cheese factories, old mills and more.

After our tour we will eat at the famous Miller's Smorgasbord where you will find home-made soup, an array of salads, fresh garden vegetables, slow roasted carved beef, turkey, ham, chicken and just baked desserts.

After you waddle from your table, you can visit Miller's Bakery, Miller's Gift Shop and Van Heusen's Crazy Horse & Izod outlet stores.



Tour #2 Monday, April 19, 1993

Leave: 8:00 am
Return: 5:30 pm

GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD AND EISENHOWER FARM (meal is included)



Gettysburg National Park is the site of a major battle in the Civil War, and the Gettysburg National Cemetery, the site of Abraham Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address.

The Confederate Army brought an army of 75,000 men and they faced the Northern army of 97,000 men. Here on July 1, 2 & 3, 1863, more men fought and died in this battle than in any other battle before or since on North American soil.

Our professional guide will make the battle come alive for us as we travel the park.

Lunch will be at The Herr Tavern & Publick House, built in 1828 and restored after war, windstorm and fire — to its original elegance.

Our lunch will consist of grilled marinated chicken breast on toast points with fresh sauteed vegetables, salad, dessert of fruit pies and beverage.

After lunch we will visit the home of President and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower. The 230-acre country estate serves as a beautiful setting for the elegant "modified Georgian" home which has been visited by Premier Khrushchev, President de Gaulle and others. A true day of American history.



Tour #3 Tuesday, April 20, 1993

Leave: 8:00 am
Return: 1:00 pm

TINARI GREENHOUSES

This tour has been designed so that those who wish to visit this famous and beautiful greenhouse operation can do so and also return for their afternoon committee meetings or go shopping or rest up for the rest of the tours and convention.

The Tinari Greenhouses, opened in 1946, and Frank and Anne Tinari, have been involved in all aspects of AVSA, including its founding, growth and development.

Come tour their lovely greenhouses — buy, order, ship or simply enjoy the beauty of their rolling country estate.

You may also help yourself to coffee and punch ... AND have some of Anne's famous fresh-baked cookies!



*Longwood
Gardens*

**Tour #4
Tuesday, April 20, 1993**

Leave: 8:00 am

Return: 5:00 pm

**LONGWOOD GARDENS
AND MUSHROOM MUSEUM**

Longwood Gardens is truly one of the most beautiful displays of flowers in the world. It is called "America's Ultimate Garden Treasure." Some attractions include 1,050 acres of gardens, woodlands and meadows, conservatories sheltering 20 indoor gardens, spectacular fountains, 11,000 different kinds of plants, roses and orchids in fragrant bloom year-round; idea gardens for home gardeners, palms, waterlilies on which a person can stand, tulips, etc.

We will also tour the historic Pierre duPont House and beautiful formal gardens.

Lunch will be on your own in either the Terrace Restaurant or Self-Serve Cafe, if you can find time to stop drinking in the beauty of the gardens, long enough to eat.

On our way to Longwood Gardens, we will take a most unique rest stop at The Mushroom Museum.

Here we will see how mushrooms are grown. Visit the Museum or browse through the interesting gift shop filled with special gifts including linen, floral arrangements, prints, jewelry, ceramics, cookware, china, glass and more.

Beauty, Beauty — everywhere!

**PLAIN & FANCY FARM
AND DINING ROOM**



**Tour #5
Tuesday, April 20, 1993**

Leave: 6:30 pm

Return: 8:45 pm

**PLAIN AND FANCY
RESTAURANT
(meal is included)**

Pennsylvania Dutch cooking at its very best. You must bring a great appetite as the food is truly wonderful. Dinner is served family style with bottomless plates and bowls.

From homemade chow-chow and apple butter to fresh baked breads, fresh vegetables (usually 4

or 5) plus chicken, Dutch pot roast, turkey, ham — and if that isn't enough, there may be a pot pie or pickled beets tossed in for good measure. Then let your belt out a notch or two and get ready for fresh ice cream, cake, pie, pudding and hot coffee or tea.

This is truly a unique and delicious eating event that should not be missed.



**Tour #6
Wednesday, April 21, 1993**

Leave: 8:00 am

Return: 4:30 pm

**MENNONITE TOUR,
KITCHEN KETTLE
VILLAGE
AND BIRD-IN-HAND
(meal is included)**

Join us for a most unique and beautiful tour. First, we will visit the Mennonite Information Center. and see a short film, "A Morning Song." This film gives a brief history of Amish and Mennonite history.

A talented Mennonite guide will join our tour and take us off the beaten path for a look at the back roads of this beautiful countryside. Among the many things you may see are water wheels, covered bridges, gift shops, working farms, cheese factories and candle barns, plus other unusual sights.

We will then journey to Kitchen Kettle Village which is an assortment of over 25 different shops and craft stores.

We will eat at the famous Kling House. You will be given a pre-paid voucher so you may eat at your leisure. The menu is pepper jam & cream cheese, homemade soup or tossed salad, choice of cranberry chicken and wild rice, seafood salad or snitz & knepps with chow-chow, beverage and dessert.

After lunch and shopping we will travel to the Bird-In-Hand Farmers Market where you will find everything from jams and jellies to wooden signs, flowers & plants — quilts, handcrafts and deer-skins.

Now that you are shopped out, and out of film, we will return to our hotel for a little rest.



Tour #7
Wednesday, April 21, 1993
 Leave: 8:00 am
 Return: 4:00 pm

**HERSHEY GARDENS
 AND HERSHEY FACTORY**

Whether you are a chocolate lover or not, you will enjoy your day in Hershey.

First, we will visit Hershey Chocolate World where you will see and learn the fascinating story of how chocolate is produced — yes, tasting and gifts are available.

From Hershey Chocolate World, we will travel a short way to Hershey Gardens. This 23-acre botanical garden features seasonal flower displays, collections of specimen trees and shrubs and an award-winning rose garden.

April and May should produce daffodils, tulips and other spring-flowering bulbs.

Back to Hershey Village where you can have lunch in the Hershey Cafe or other nearby restaurants on your own.

After lunch, we will travel to the Museum of American Life. Here you can see Pennsylvania past and experience Hershey's rich heritage — diverse exhibits and displays which include a unique clock show.

Chocolate and flowers — how can you miss?

Tour #8
Wednesday, April 21, 1993
 Leave: 5:45 pm
 Return: 10:30 pm



**DUTCH APPLE
 DINNER THEATER**
 (meal is included)

The charm of the Dutch Apple is informality, warmth and an atmosphere to help you relax and have FUN! Raised tables and levels with no steps to worry about make access easy and provide a good view of the stage.

First we will enjoy an outstanding buffet dinner which features a 25 plus item salad bar. Entrees from which to select include baked lemon chicken, roast beef, shrimp, meat ravioli, baked fish, sliced ham, plus assorted vegetables and 15

different desserts.

After dinner we will be treated to a Broadway talent level production of "Meet Me In St. Louis." This is a wonderful musical comedy that will have everyone singing along and tapping toes.

What an enjoyable and relaxing evening.

Also, there is a beautiful gift shop if you just can't control yourself!



Tour #9
Thursday, April 22, 1993
 Leave: 8:00 am
 Return: 5:00 pm
**LONGWOOD GARDENS
 AND MUSHROOM MUSEUM**
 Repeat of Tour #4



Tour #10
Thursday, April 22, 1993
 Leave: 8:00 am
 Return: 4:30 pm
**STRASBURG RAILROAD
 -TRAIN RIDE - MUSEUM
 AND LUNCH
 AT THE RED CABOOSE**
 (meal is included)

Journey back with us to the day of the iron horse. Our day starts at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. See steam locomotives from the earliest days to those used in the mid-20th century. Visitors may enter the cab of a steam locomotive, view a state room of a restored private car and see an old Pullman sleeper. This is considered one of the largest collections of engines, cars and equipment in the US.

Next, we will board the Strasburg Railroad for a trip through the gently rolling hills of Lancaster County. The train is a fully-restored, coal-burning steam locomotive with authentic wooden coaches.

Upon our return, we will enjoy lunch in the Red Caboose Restaurant where the owners have restored two diners to their full Victorian splendor. We will be served the Brakeman's Special which includes fillet of chicken breast and baked Lancaster ham, hot vegetables, rolls & butter, beverage and choice of dessert.

Room Sharing ...

Room sharing has become very successful. Is room sharing for you?
Are you interested in making your expenses less by sharing a room with someone?
We offer this service to anyone interested.

Name/Last	First	Middle Initial
Address/Street		Apt. #
City	State	Zip
Phone		
\$80.00 Single/Double	\$92.00 Triple/Quad	plus 6% St. sales tax
Non-Smoker____	Smoker____	No preference____
Age ____	Under 25	____26-50
____51 and over		
Arrival date_____		Departure date_____
Any other considerations: _____		

All requests must be made by March 1, 1993, so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations which is March 19, 1993.

Volunteers Needed

In an effort to reduce expenses, the AVSA Board of Directors decided at their last meeting to operate the AVSA Sales and Promotion table at the Lancaster Convention with volunteers. The table will be operational from Wednesday, April 21, 1993 to Saturday, April 24, 1993.

If you like sales and have some free time to volunteer for AVSA, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please complete and mail the following form to: Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308 by April 1, 1993.

Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____
State	_____ ZIP _____
Phone #	_____
Dates available to volunteer	_____
Hours available to volunteer	_____

Hosts and Hostesses

If you would like to help in Lancaster by serving as a host or hostess in the show room, please send the information listed below, by March 15, 1993 to:

Alice Easter
368 E. Gorgas Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19119

Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____
State	_____ ZIP _____
Phone #	_____

**Volunteer your time
at the Lancaster Convention
and help AVSA**

Convention Awards

Esther Edwards Wells

Society Awards — Amateur Division

Best African Violet	Silver and Rosette
2nd Best African Violet	Award of Merit Rosette and \$15
3rd Best African Violet	Honorable Mention Rosette and \$10
Best AVSA Collection	Gold Rosette
2nd Best AVSA Collection	Purple Rosette
Best Miniature	Rosette
Best Semiminiature	Rosette
Best Standard	Rosette
Best Trailer	Rosette
Best Other Gesneriad	Rosette
Sweepstakes in Horticulture	Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Horticulture	Rosette

Society Awards — Design Division Amateur and Commercial

Best Design	Silver and Rosette
2nd Best Design	Rosette
Sweepstakes in Design	Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Design	Rosette

Society Awards — Commercial Specimen Plants

Best African Violet	Silver and Blue Rosette
Best AVSA Collection	Gold Rosette
2nd Best AVSA Collection	Purple Rosette

Society Awards — Commercial Display Tables

Best Display Table	Silver
2nd Best Display Table	Silver
3rd Best Display Table	Silver
4th Best Display Table	Honorable Mention Rosette
Best Horticultural Perfection	Blue Rosette
2nd Best Horticultural Perfection	Red Rosette
3rd Best Horticultural Perfection	White Rosette
4th Best Horticultural Perfection	Lavender Rosette
Best African Violet	Rosette
Best New Cultivar	Blue Rosette
2nd Best New Cultivar	Red Rosette
3rd Best New Cultivar	White Rosette
Best New Cultivar from display tables or specimen plants	Plaque

Society Awards — Affiliate Yearbooks

Best Yearbook	Blue Rosette and \$50
2nd Best Yearbook	Red Rosette and \$35
3rd Best Yearbook	White Rosette and \$25
4th Best Yearbook	Lavender Rosette and \$10

Society Awards — Affiliate Newsletters

(sixteen pages or less)

Best Newsletter	Blue Rosette and \$50
2nd Best Newsletter	Red Rosette and \$25

Society Awards — Affiliate Magazines

(more than sixteen pages)

Best Magazine	Blue Rosette and \$50
2nd Best Magazine	Red Rosette and \$25

Special Awards — Amateur Division

Specified Awards — Amateur Division

Best AVSA Collection	\$100	Baltimore AVS
Best Holtkamp Collection	\$300	Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$200	Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$100	Holtkamp Greenhouses
Best Maas Collection	\$100	Union County AVS
2nd Best Maas Collection	\$50	Union County AVS
Best Standard	\$10	Margaret Cass
Best Standard Variegated	\$15	Delaware AVS
Best Semiminiature	\$25	Mid-America AVS
Best Miniature	\$15	St. Louis AV Judges' Council
Best Species	\$25 & Rosette	AVS of Philadelphia
Best Species	\$50	Cape Cod Violetry

Specific Variety Awards — Amateur Division

Bergen Lucille Loughlin	\$25	Bergen County AVS
Charlie's Chuckle	\$10	African Queen
Cinnamon Girl	\$15 & Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Emiko	\$25	Granger Gardens
Everdina	\$10	Hans & Everdina Inpijn
Fantasy Flash	\$25	Granger Gardens
Harbor Blue	\$10	Paumanok AVS
Irish Flirt	\$15 & Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Little Pro	\$10	Hortense & Ray Pittman

Margery's Melody	\$10	African Queen
Mickey Mouse	\$10	Hans & Everdina Inpijn
Optimara Little Sioux.....	\$25	AVS of Rochester
Pat Champagne	\$10	Hortense & Ray Pittman
Petite Jewel	\$10	Hortense & Ray Pittman
Precious Pink	\$10	Hortense & Ray Pittman
Rob's Sticky Wicket	\$10	AVS of North Jersey
Rob's Sunspot	\$20 & Rosette	Ralph Robinson
Sassy Shirley	\$10	Magic Knight AVS
Sundown Trail	\$10	Hortense & Ray Pittman
Tomahawk	\$10	Pittsburgh VS
White Cameo	\$25	Tinari Greenhouses

Other Awards — Amateur Division

\$50 Donated by

AVS of Minnesota
Tampa AVS
Upper Pinellas AVS

\$25 Donated by

AV Council of Southern California
AV Study Club of Houston
AVS of Canton
AVS of Lower Bucks County
Central Texas Judges Council
First AVS of Dallas
First AVS of Denton
First Nighter AVS
Garden State AV Club
Judges Council of Northern California
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council

Michigan State AVS
Missouri Valley AV Council
New Jersey Council of AV Judges
North Texas AV Judges Council
Northern California Council of AVS
Quad Cities AVS
Spring Branch AV Club
Tristate AV Council
Lois Buschke
Joseph De Gregorio
Ruth Wheeler

\$20 Donated by

Amethyst AV Club
Bill & Paula Foster
Joan Halford

Esther Kryst
Edward & Grace Moeller
L. T. & Yvonne Ozio

\$15 Donated by

Central Florida AVS
Meredith M. Hall
Leonard & Elaine Re

\$10 Donated by

AVS of Greater Kansas City
AVS of San Francisco
Bay Area Gesneriad Society
First Lakeland AVS
Fort Worth AVS
Metropolitan Regional Council of AV Judges
NASA Area AVS

Thousand Oaks AVS
Unpredictable's AVS
1995 St. Louis Convention Steering Committee
Margaret Cass
Linda L. Golubski
Ida C. Ortman
Sue Ramser

Nite Bloomers AVS
The Pied Pipers AV Club

Laura Purves Shannon
David B. Tooker

\$5 Donated by

Charlotte E. Lynn
Janice Murasko
Helen R. Ryan

Cecelia Winfield
Yolanda Wischmann

Rosette

AVS of Western New York

Special Awards — Design Division

Specified Awards — Design Division

Best in Design\$20Frank Senna

Special Awards — Commercial Division

Specified Awards — Commercial Specimen Plants

Best Holtkamp Collection.....\$300.....Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection.....\$200.....Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection\$100.....Holtkamp Greenhouses

Specified Awards — Commercial Display Tables

Best Display Table\$300.....Tristate AV Council
2nd Best Display Table\$200.....Tristate AV Council
3rd Best Display Table\$100.....Tristate AV Council
Best African Violet\$50Tristate AV Council
Best New Cultivar\$50Tristate AV Council
Best Horticultural PerfectionSilverNew York State AVS

Tinari Membership Award

A special award of \$50, donated by Tinari Greenhouses, will be presented at the 1993 Lancaster Convention to the club or individual who obtained the most new members (over 25) of AVSA during 1992.

To be eligible for the award, send a complete list of names and addresses of the new members to:

Esther Edwards Wells
AVSA Awards Chairman
948 Fair Oaks Court
Liberty, MO 64068

by January 31, 1993.

Publication Entries

Magazine, Newsletter and Yearbook entries for the AVSA Lancaster convention in the Special Exhibits Division are due no later than February 1, 1993.

Judging of the Magazines and Newsletters will be done by The Louisiana Council of AV Judges. You will need to submit a complete year of issues to Mrs. Y. George Ramirez, 1620 Willowbend Dr., Morgan City, LA 70380.

Yearbooks, this year, will be judged by The Potomac Council of AV Judges. You will need to submit three (3) copies of your yearbook to Mrs. Stanley E. Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

AVSA Convention Show Schedule

"YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN PENNSYLVANIA"

April 19 - 25, 1993

Horticulture Division - Amateur

Section I - Collections

Class 1. AVSA Collection of three different registered standard varieties all of the same type (three single crown or three trailers) or three different species, regardless of type.

1 a. AVSA Collection of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures, or three semiminature trailers).

1 b. Holtkamp Memorial Collection of three registered Optimara® and/or Rhapsodie® plants, all of the same type: standard, miniature, or semiminature.

1 c. Max Maas Memorial Collection of three Max Maas cultivars, all of the same type: standard, miniature or semiminature. (Registration is not required on plants in this collection.)

Section II - Standard Plants, Single and Semidouble Blossoms

2. Blues and purples
3. Pink, dark pink, rose, and coral
4. Red, wine, fuchsia, and plum
5. Lavender, mauve, and orchid
6. White, cream, and blush
7. Two-tone and multicolor
8. Fantasy and all edged
9. Chimera

Section III - Standard Plants, Double Blossoms

10. Dark blue and purple
11. Light to medium blue
12. Light to medium pink
13. Dark pink, rose, and coral
14. Red, wine, fuchsia, and plum
15. Lavender, mauve, and orchid
16. White, cream, and blush
17. Two-tone and multicolor (all shades pink, red, yellow)
18. Two-tone and multicolor (all shades pink and red)
19. Fantasy, chimera, and all edged

Section IV - Standard Plants, Single, Semi-

double, or Double Blossoms, Variegated Foliage

20. Blue, purple, lavender, and orchid
21. Pink, red, fuchsia, coral, and wine
22. White, cream, and blush
23. Two-tone, multicolor, and edged

Section V - Miniature Plants, Single, Semidouble, or Double Blossoms

24. Purple and all shades of blue
25. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia
26. Orchid and lavender
27. White and blush
28. Two-tone, multicolor, fantasy, chimera, and all edged
29. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
30. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
31. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
32. Two-tone, multicolor, fantasy, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage

Section VI - Semiminature Plants, Single, Semidouble, or Double Blossoms

33. Purple and all shades of blue
34. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia
35. Orchid and lavender
36. White and blush
37. Two-tone, multicolor, fantasy, chimera, and all edged
38. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
39. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
40. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
41. Two-tone, multicolor, fantasy, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage

Section VII - Trailers and species, Single, Semidouble, or Double blossoms, Any Type Foliage

42. Standard trailers

43. Miniature trailers
44. Semiminiature trailers
45. *Saintpaulia* species and natural hybrids

brids

Section VIII - New Cultivars

46. Seedlings
47. Sports or mutants

Section IX - African Violet Plant In Unusual Container

48. One African violet plant, either standard, miniature, or semiminiature in container

49. One African violet trailer in container

Section X - Gesneriads Other Than African Violets

50. Miniatures (may be displayed in regular pots or growing in clear container, cover permitted)
51. Tuberous-rooted
52. Scaly-rhizomed
53. Fibrous-rooted
54. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage

DESIGN DIVISION

Section XI - Container Gardens - Miniature gardens with one or more blooming African violet plants and other growing plants. All plants must be planted in the container; no cut plant material permitted; accessories optional.

55. "Penn's Woods" - Pennsylvania means "Penn's Woods" and with 58 per cent of the Commonwealth covered with forest, it's not difficult to see how we came by that name. State forests alone comprise over two million acres. Most of the hundreds of miles of hiking trails allow you to walk in these woods, magnificent in any season. A shallow dish garden with overall dimensions not to exceed 20".

56. "Fairmount Park" - Site of the Centennial Exposition. More than 8,700 acres of urban park and nature centers, it is the largest city-owned park in the world. The park abounds with historic, artistic and natural treasures. A garden formed in a natural container such as driftwood, lava rock, etc., with overall dimensions not to exceed 20".

57. "Longwood Gardens" - This horticultural showplace is located on the estate of the late Pierre S. du Pont. There are more botanical gardens and arboreta in the Brandywine Valley and nearby Delaware Valley than in any other region of the nation. No wonder that it's sometimes called the "Gateway to America's Gardens." A covered terrarium, not to exceed 30" in any direction.

Section XII - Interpretive Plant Arrangements

- One or more blooming African violet plants, removed from their pots, used in a design. Fresh-cut, dried, treated, painted or colored plant material is permitted. No artificial plant material permitted. Accessories, backdrops and bases are

optional. To be staged in white niches, 28" high, 24" wide, and 20" deep (side wing is 15" deep).

58. "Along the Susquehanna" - Translated, "a long, winding river." It has been called the "Currier and Ives of rivers" by many artists, and the loveliest words in the English language by many linguists. Fertile farm lands, old mills and covered bridges showcase the unique commerce and history that depended on the water. Limited to 6 entries.

59. "Old King Coal" - Our cities of Scranton and Wilkes-Barre are alive with reminders of our industrial age and how it began with coal. Anthracite coal was first mined here in 1820 and until the 1950s we ranked first in the nation in coal production. A design incorporating real coal. Limited to 6 entries.

60. "Little League Baseball" - It was born with two teams in 1939, at Williamsport. Today, with over 60,000 teams worldwide, more than two million players compete in Little League every summer, and each August we host a true World Series with regional winners from the USA, Canada, Europe, Latin America and the Far East. Girls were permitted for the first time in 1974. Limited to 6 entries.

61. "Falling Water" - This vacation retreat was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, built in 1936, on Bear Run, in the mountains of Fayette County. Now open to the public, it is a splendid example of Wright's genius. Its cantilevered construction is called "a matchless fusion of fantasy and engineering." Built over a waterfall and anchored in nearby stone, this remarkable house, "Falling Water," is one of the most architecturally significant buildings in America. Limited to 6 entries.

62. "Winterfest" - One of the country's most majestic mountain ranges, the Alleghenies, begins in the gently rolling hills and small peaks of Allegheny Highlands. Indiana County, "the Christmas Tree Capital of the World," boasts nature's unsurpassed beauty, unspoiled. Incorporate evergreen into the design. Limited to 6 entries.

Section XIII - Interpretive Flower Arrangements - A design using fresh cut African violet blossoms and other fresh cut, dried, treated, painted or colored plant material is permitted. Accessories, bases are optional. All interpretive flower arrangements shall be staged in white niches, 22" high, 18" wide, and 16" deep (side wing is 12" deep), except classes 68 through 72.

63. "The Mummer's Parade" - It takes its name from Momus, the Greek god of ridicule. The world-famous New Year's Day parade of over 30,000 spectacularly costumed Mummies doing their traditional "strut" down Philadelphia's Broad Street, since 1901. The only parade of its kind in the world, and it lasts over 12 hours. Limited to 6 entries.

64. "Punxsutawney Phil" - Gobbler's Knob in Jefferson County is home to a world-famous resident of international fame; the groundhog whose appearance every February 2, forecasts an early spring or a prolonged winter. Arrangers interpretation of America's premier weather forecaster's prediction for 1993. Limited to 6 entries.

65. "A Tribute to Pearl S. Buck" - Bucks County was the home of Pearl S. Buck. This famous author was the only American woman to receive both the Pulitzer and Nobel prizes. Born in China, of missionary parents, she dedicated most of her adult life to the betterment of Amerasian children. Create a design in the Oriental manner. Limited to 6 entries.

66. "Ski It To Believe It" - Skiing is a family affair. From rank novices to world-class experts, from tots to seniors, schussing and snowplowing on our slopes. Our 27 ski areas across the Commonwealth offer over 390 trails. Whatever type of skiing appeals to you, you can find it in Pennsylvania. Limited to 6 entries.

67. "Willkommen" - We are the melting pot of people from more than 77 ethnic groups, but the Amish and Mennonite cultures, sometimes called the "Plain Sects," are charming remnants

of life and simplicity in a quieter time. The quilters, blacksmiths, horse and buggies — even the fields are plowed by hand. Life hasn't changed much in the past 250 years. Willkommen to Pennsylvania Dutch Country! Limited to 6 entries.

68. "Lights on the Delaware" - Many historical estates are preserved on the Delaware River. Pennsbury Manor (1683), William Penn's English Manor; Trevoise (1685), Growden family mansion; Andalusia (1794); this estate is one of the finest examples of Greek Revival domestic architecture in the United States. Legend is that somewhere near Trevoise, Ben Franklin conducted his electrical experiment. A kinetic design. Create a design which implies movement or has actual motion. White niche. Space allowed 28" high, 24" wide and 20" deep. Limited to 6 entries.

69. "Penn and Ink" - Draw upon your imagination and design a part of the writing of history, which came from the royal family grant of more than 28 million acres. In the new world, that made William Penn the largest landowner in English history. A design in black and white. Staged in a white niche 10" high, 8" wide, 6" deep. Limited to 6 entries.

70. "The Sweetest Place on Earth" - Milton S. Hershey's dream is legend and alive here in Chocolate Town, USA. From the Hershey Bar in 1893 came Hershey Park, Hershey's Chocolate World, Hershey Medical Center, Hershey Gardens, Hershey Museum, Hershey School. The Hershey Hotel is listed in the registry of Historical Hotels. The sweet aroma of America's favorite flavor is in the air. Even the street lights are shaped like Hershey's Kisses. A design staged in front (not attached to) a 12" aluminum-foiled circle. Circle to be provided. Limited to 6 entries.

71. "The Mystery River" - Geographers say there's an unusual river flowing underneath the other three rivers at Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle. It has been named the Wisconsin River. An underwater design, staged at eye level, to be viewed from one side only. Container not to exceed 14" in any direction. Limited to 8 entries.

72. "The Folk Art & Craft Museum" - You'd be hard-pressed to find another state with a richer or more carefully preserved heritage of traditional arts and crafts. The PA Guild of Craftsmen, one of the largest in the nation, sponsors shows throughout the Commonwealth every

month of the year. A small arrangement using a container symbolic of a craft. Staged at eye level in a 5 pound ham can, standing on its broader

end, which should be covered at the designer's discretion. Limited to 10 entries.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

Section XIV - Education Exhibit

73. Education exhibit (by individual)

Section XV - Affiliate Publications

74. Yearbooks (once-a-year publications)

75. Newsletters (16 pages or less)

76. Magazines (more than 16 pages)

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Section XVI - Specimen Plants

A. Collections

77. AVSA Collections

- a. Standard Plants

- b. Miniatures & Semiminiatures

78. Holtkamp Memorial Collections

B. New Cultivars (from seed or mutation)

79. Standard African Violets

80. Miniature African Violets

81. Semiminiature African Violets

82. Trailer African Violets (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

C. Specimen African Violets

83. Standard, plain green foliage

84. Standard, variegated foliage

85. Miniatures, plain foliage

86. Miniatures, variegated foliage

87. Semiminiatures, plain foliage

88. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage

89. Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

90. Saintpaulia species

D. Gesneriads

91. Gesneriads (other than African violets)

Section XVII - Display Tables

92. Display Tables

Horticulture Division - Amateur - Rules and Regulations

1. Only amateur AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, April 21, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and on Thursday, April 22 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of the person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag.

3. Only clean, healthy plants which have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months will be accepted.

4. Plants must be correctly named or they will be subject to correction by the classification committee.

5. Double potting, flared-top pots, supports, and collars will not be accepted. For uniformity, all pots must be non-decorative white. DO NOT COVER POTS IN FOIL. White self-watering pots, such as Moist-Rite and Oyama may be entered. Slip potting is to be used on other types of pots. This means dropping the pot containing the plant into a white pot of the same, or just a fraction larger sized pot. It is recommended that plastic be placed in the bottom of the outer pot to

prevent leakage onto the table covering. If the plant is growing in something other than a white pot, consider placing white tape on the lip so the color will not show when dropped into the white pot. This must be worked out prior to entry. Try different pot sizes and find what works best. For example, miniatures growing in a 2-1/8" OS Plastics terra cotta colored pot fit nicely into a white 2-1/4" white Kord pot. Exception: trailers, trailing species, trailing gesneriads, and gesneriads in protective containers may be exhibited in the containers in which they are growing.

6. An exhibitor may enter only one plant of each variety in classes 2 through 45.

7. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 1, 48, and 49 as those in classes 1 through 45.

8. All plants in classes 1 through 49 must be single-crown plants except trailers and some species, which may be multiple-crown. S. Amazon velutina, S. Amazon grotei, S. Sigi Falls, and S. House of Amani will be accepted in Class 45.

9. Any number of new cultivars may be entered provided they have been originated by the exhibitor

from hybridization, from purchased seed, or from mutation; or the released rights in writing from the hybridizer have been given to the exhibitor for purchased seedlings. New cultivars may be entered by number or name, and the entry tag must indicate whether it is a new cultivar from seed or mutation. A sport (mutant) may be exhibited as a "Sport of _____." If a name has been given to the sport, the name in parenthesis may follow, such as "Sport of 'Valencia' ('Dale's Dream')." New cultivars must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show.

10. Gesneriads (other than African violets) may be exhibited in protective containers, and neutral-colored mulch may be used on the soil surface.

11. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decisions of the judges will be final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

12. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to

receive special awards.

13. Any African violet entered in an AVSA Collection, Class 1, and 1a, receiving a blue ribbon, will be eligible for other awards.

14. All African violets entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 1b., must be AVSA registered Optimara® and/or Rhapsodie® plants and must be different plants of the same type.

15. All African violets entered in the Max Maas Memorial Collection, Class 1c., must be different plants of the same type but need not be registered.

16. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each class: AVSA Collection, Classes 1 and 1a., Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 1b., and Max Maas Memorial Collection, Class 1c.

17. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

18. Entries may be checked out on Saturday, April 24, from 11:00 p.m. (after show closes) until 1:00 a.m.

Design Division - Rules and Regulations

1. Both amateur and commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, April 21, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY. Entries will be accepted on Thursday, April 22, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. MEMBERS ON TOUR ONLY may enter on Thursday, April 22, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Design entry books will be closed on Thursday, April 22, at 9:00 p.m.

Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class.

Entries in classes 55 through 57 are unlimited but reservations are required.

Exhibitors are limited to 6 entries in classes 58 through 72.

All entries must be the creation of the exhibitor, and must be placed by the exhibitor.

Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs on Thursday, April 22 until 10:00 p.m., and on Friday, April 23, from 6:00 to 8:00 a.m. for final touchup and blossom placement ONLY. All exhibitors and their materials must be out of the show room by 8:00 a.m. Friday, April 23.

Design entries must be removed from the show room Saturday night, April 24. All design entries will be checked out on Saturday, April 24, from 11:00 p.m. (after the show closes), until 1:00 a.m.

3. The American flag (or facsimile), artificial material, and live creatures may not be used in any design exhibit.

4. Dried, treated, weathered, and colored plant

materials may be used in all classes. Accessories and bases may be used in all classes. EXCEPTION: Bases not permitted in classes 55 through 57 and class 71.

5. Draping or backgrounds may be used in all classes except classes 55 through 57 and 70 through 72.

6. No part of a design may touch or extend beyond the confines of the niche or space dimensions.

7. All entries must have a white 3" x 5" card listing the African violet varieties and other plant materials (if known) used. A written subtitle defining the exhibitor's interpretation of the class may also be included on the cards, but it is not a requirement.

8. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decisions of the judges will be final, unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

9. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.

10. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

11. Anyone desiring to reserve space in the design division must send a reservation blank (regular mail, please) postmarked no sooner than February 1, 1993 and sent no later than March 15, 1993, to: Joyce McMullen, 478 Valley View Road, Langhorne, PA 19047. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Exhibitors who wish to cancel reservations must write to Ms. McMullen or call (215) 752-2554, after 6:00 p.m.

Special Exhibits Division - Rules and Regulations

1. Only AVSA affiliates in good standing are eligible to enter yearbooks, newsletters and magazines.

2. Yearbooks must be mailed to The Potomac Council of African Violet Judges, Elinor Skelton, Chair, 3910 Larchwood Road, Falls Church, VA 22041-1108. Three copies of the yearbook must be in possession of the

judges by February 1, 1993.

3. Newsletters and magazines must be mailed to the Louisiana Council of African Violet Judges, Alice Ramirez, Chair, 1620 Willowbend Drive, Morgan City, LA 70380 by February 1, 1993. A complete club year of the issue must be included.

Commercial Horticulture Division - Rules and Regulations

1. Only commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter either the Specimen Plant Section or the Display Table Section, but not both. They may also enter the Design Division.

2. For dates and times for entering exhibits, please refer to Rule 2 under HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR.

3. All plants must be correctly named, and all African violets must be single crown plants, except trailers, some species, and trailing gesneriads.

4. In the Specimen Plant Section, exhibitors may enter any number of plants in each class, but only one plant of the same variety in the same class. Exhibitors may enter plants of the same variety in the AVSA Collection, class 77, and Holtkamp Memorial Collections, class 78, as are entered in the other classes. Exhibitors may enter either collection class or both. Plants entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection class must be AVSA registered Optimara® / Rhapsodie® plants. AVSA collection rules are the same for commercials as they are for amateurs.

5. Only plants labeled "New Cultivar" in either the Specimen Plant Section or Display Table Section will be considered for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards.

6. Entries for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards may be seedlings (plants originally from seed), sports, or mutants originated by the exhibitors or the right and ownership to them released by the hybridizer, and must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show. Each entry must be labeled "New Cultivar."

7. A covered 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table Section.

8. Each display table shall contain 15 plants (no merchandise). Three, all of the same type, miniatures, semiminatures, or miniature or semiminature trailers shall count as a specimen plant and be judged as one unit. The display must be predominantly (at least 75%) African violets. Other gesneriads may be included in the 15 plants and will be judged.

9. Any plant, up to a maximum of 15 plants, on a display table may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards, either standard,

semiminature, miniature and all types of trailers, either standard, semiminature or miniature.

10. No other material, such as ivy, may be used on a display table.

11. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.

12. Any shape and type of pot for specimen plants will be permitted except flared top pots. Supports and collars will not be permitted. Pots in the specimen plant section must be slip potted into clean, non-decorative white pots. The bottom of the pot containing the plant must be completely covered with plastic or aluminum foil. The pot is then inserted into a white pot of the same size and shape. The inside pot may be of any color and may extend above the rim of the outside pot. Exceptions to slip potting are white pots with self contained reservoirs (i.e., white Oyama, white Moist Rites, etc.). Pots in the Display Table Section do not have to be covered and may be elevated and tilted with individual display pot holders.

13. Prior to judging, signs, cards, or codes identifying the exhibitor may not be displayed on the display tables.

14. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges will be final, unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

15. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.

16. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

17. Commercial Silver Trophies will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors of the Display Tables receiving the first, second and third highest number of points. An Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the fourth highest number of points.

18. A Point-Score Sheet shall be given each Display Table Exhibitor to show how trophies are awarded.

19. To reserve a display table or for further information, contact J. R. (Sundown) Pittman, 12406 Alexandria St., San Antonio, Texas 78233. Phone (512) 656-0128.

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

47th Annual Convention and Show

April 19-24, 1993

The Lancaster Host Golf Resort & Conference Center, Lancaster, PA

Call for 1993 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Saturday, April 24, 1993, at 3:30 p.m. at The Lancaster Host Golf Resort & Conference Center, for the purpose of electing officers and transacting business that may properly come before the assembly.

Call for 1993 Board of Directors Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc., Board of Directors Meetings will be held Wednesday, April 21, 1993, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Thursday, April 22, 1993, 9:00 p.m. to completion; and Sunday, April 25, 1993, 10:00 a.m. to completion, at The Lancaster Host Golf Resort & Conference Center, for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the meeting.

Call for 1993 Open Forum Meeting

The ninth annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Saturday, April 24, 1993, at The Lancaster Host Golf Resort & Conference Center. This will take place the first 20 minutes of the Annual Meeting. At this time, the Board of Directors of AVSA will welcome any and all AVSA members to come and present any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc., which they may have.

Registration for Judging School For New Students and Certificate Renewals

The Lancaster Host Golf Resort & Conference Center
Wednesday, April 21, 1993

Lancaster, PA
Teacher: Betty Tapping

An AVSA Judging school will be held on Wednesday, April 21, for AVSA members who wish to take their first judge's test and for AVSA judges who wish to renew their certificates. The lecture will be from 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The test begins at 2:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$7.50. AVSA membership cards must be presented at the door. Proof of three blue ribbons (two of which must have been won in horticulture and the third may be won from design or other gesneriad classes) is required for all members taking the test.

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

JUDGING STATUS: Student (1st exam) _____ Student (renewal) _____

Advanced _____ Auditing _____

Complete this form (or facsimile) and mail with registration fee of \$7.50 (make check payable to AVSA) to Betty Tapping, 1512-511, The West Mall, Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada M9C 1G5. (Be sure to use correct postage - 50¢ - for International Airmail). The test will be based on the 1986 Handbook, with all the updates. This is available from the AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704. The cost of the Handbook is \$9.95. The cost of the revised pages is \$4.50.

Registration for Judging School must be received by March 25, 1993



HOST RESORT

Please mail to:

Lancaster Host Golf Resort and Conference Center

2300 Lincoln Highway, East

Lancaster, PA 17602

phone (717) 299-5500

Hotel Reservation

1993 AVSA Convention, Show, and Annual Membership Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.
Group Number - AV

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

Sharing Room with _____

Make check or money order payable to **The Lancaster Host Golf Resort and Conference Center.**
Do not send currency. To confirm your reservations, the hotel accepts any one of the following as means
of payment:

____ One Night's Deposit Enclosed

____ MasterCard

____ American Express

____ VISA

____ Diner's Club

____ Discover Card

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Deposit refundable if reservation is cancelled 48 hours prior to arrival. To cancel, phone - The Lancaster
Host Golf Resort and Conference Center. Phone number: (717) 299-5500.

Room Rate: \$80.00 Single, Double

\$92.00 Triple or Quad

6% State Tax

Suite rates available upon request - through sales office

Accommodations requested:

____ Single

____ number of persons in room

____ Double (two persons)

Arrival Date _____
(check in 3:00 p.m.)

____ Triple (three persons)

Departure Date _____
(check out by noon)

____ Quad (four persons)

Bed types available: double, king (upon request)

Room rates subject to 6% State Tax.

Reservations **must** be received by: **March 19, 1993.**

The AVSA reserved room block will be released after this date.

AVSA's 47th Annual Convention & Show "You've Got A Friend In Pennsylvania"

April 19 - 24, 1993 - Lancaster Host Golf Resort and Conference Center

AVSA CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Please send this completed pre-registration form with your check, money order or credit card number made out in the appropriate amount to: Lancaster, PA Convention Account. Mail to: The AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704. Refunds will be made upon written request **only if received by April 5, 1993**. There will be a \$5.00 paper work fee charged for all cancellations. Registrations received **after March 22, 1993**, will be **\$40.00**. Following receipt of your Registration, you will receive confirmation which includes your convention registration, tours, presentations, meal information and any registration materials being mailed in advance of the convention.

Membership # _____

Mr./Ms. _____
Last Name First Name Area Code/Phone #
Street or P. O. Box Apt. # City/State ZIP

Names of Spouse/Guests/Children _____
 (Please indicate the number you are registering in each category above):

_____ AVSA Member (Pre-registration - \$35) _____ Non-Member (Pre-registration - \$38)

Please check appropriate status:

_____ Individual Member	_____ Associate Member	_____ Master Judge	_____ Bronze Medal Winner
_____ Life Member	_____ Judge	_____ Student Judge	_____ Commercial Member
_____ Board Member	_____ Honorary Life	_____ Senior Judge	_____ Judging School Teacher
_____ Affiliate President	_____ Non-Member (Guest)		

This is my (#) _____ Convention. Name to go on badge: _____

Is there any possibility that you might bring horticultural exhibits? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(If yes, entries information will be mailed to you.)

In case of emergency, whom should be notified? _____

Relationship _____ Area Code/Phone # _____

Travel by:		Accommodations:	
Personal Car _____	Plane _____	Arrival Time _____	Lancaster Host _____
Rental Car _____	Airline: _____		
RV _____	Other _____	Airport _____	Other _____

Convention Registration:

AVSA or Associate Member	\$35.00	\$ _____
AVSA or Associate Member (after March 22, 1993)	\$40.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest)	\$38.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (after March 22, 1993)	\$40.00	\$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION \$ _____

Meals:

PERSONS WISHING TO BE SEATED TOGETHER AT MEAL FUNCTIONS (LIMIT 8 PER TABLE) **MUST** MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO THE AVSA OFFICE IN THE SAME ENVELOPE **BEFORE March 22, 1993**. We are sorry but there can be no exceptions.

_____ 1. Thu., April 22	Teachers' Supper (Breast of Turkey)	\$18.00	\$ _____
_____ 2. Fri., April 23	Commercial Breakfast (Full Breakfast)	\$12.00	\$ _____
_____ 3. Fri., April 23	Opening Dinner (Stuffed Chicken Breast)	\$24.00	\$ _____
_____ 4. Sat., April 24	Judges Breakfast (French Toast/Full Breakfast)	\$12.00	\$ _____
_____ 5. Sat., April 24	Luncheon (Deli Plate)	\$16.50	\$ _____
_____ 6. Sat., April 24	Grand Finale (Mixed Grill)	\$29.00	\$ _____
_____ 7. Sun., April 25	Board of Directors Luncheon (Grilled Breast of Chicken)	\$14.50	\$ _____

TOTAL MEALS \$ _____

TOURS: (*meals included in the price of the tour)

_____ 1. Mon., April 19	Mennonite Tour & Millers Smorgasbord*	\$29.50	\$ _____
_____ 2. Mon., April 19	Gettysburg Battlefield & Eisenhower Farm*	\$32.50	\$ _____
_____ 3. Tue., April 20	Tinari Greenhouses	\$13.00	\$ _____
_____ 4. Tue., April 20	Longwood Gardens & Mushroom Museum	\$25.50	\$ _____
_____ 5. Tue., April 20	Plain & Fancy Restaurant*	\$23.00	\$ _____
_____ 6. Wed., April 21	Mennonite Tour - Kitchen Kettle & Bird-In-Hand*	\$29.50	\$ _____
_____ 7. Wed., April 21	Hershey Gardens & Hershey Factory	\$24.50	\$ _____
_____ 8. Wed., April 21	Dutch Apple Dinner Theater*	\$34.50	\$ _____
_____ 9. Thu., April 22	Longwood Gardens & Mushroom Museum	\$25.50	\$ _____
_____ 10. Thu., April 22	Strasburg Railroad/Train Ride/lunch at The Red Caboose*	\$32.00	\$ _____

TOTAL TOURS \$ _____

PRESENTATIONS: (Please check ONLY those presentations which you wish to attend)

Friday, April 23

_____ 1. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	"Not So Friendly Pests" (pests) by Dr. Charles Cole
_____ 2. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	"Violets Closest Friends" (gesneriads) by Laura Shannon
_____ 3. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	"Little Friends are Fun" (miniatures) by Betty Tapping
_____ 4. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	"Friends Share Show Plant Secrets" (show plants) by Sophie Martin & Phyllis Harris
_____ 5. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	"Trailing Around the Amish Country" (trailers) by Beverly Promersberger
_____ 6. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	"Designing Friends" (terrariums & dish gardens) by Edna Rourke

Saturday, April 24

_____ 7. 9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	"Not So Friendly Pests (pests) by Dr. Charles Cole
_____ 8. 9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	"Friends Share Show Plant Secrets" (show plants) by Sophie Martin & Phyllis Harris
_____ 9. 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	"Beginners Forum" Moderator: Mary Boland Panel: Dr. Charles Cole, Marie Burns, Anne Tinari

PAYMENT: (Make checks payable to LANCASTER PA CONVENTION ACCOUNT)

Send payment and completed registration form to:

AVSA Office
P. O. Box 3609
Beaumont, TX 77704
ph. (409) 839-4725

Check one:

Total Registration \$ _____ Visa # _____

Total Meals \$ _____ Expires _____

Total Tours \$ _____ MasterCard # _____

Expires _____

TOTAL
PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____ Check or Money Order Enclosed

NOTE: Cancellations must be received

by April 5, 1993 to be entitled to a refund.

There will be a \$5.00 fee for all cancellations.

Signature (if using card)

Attention: Judges

All Advanced, Senior and Master Judges are eligible to judge the Lancaster show. If you would like to judge, please complete this form and mail to: Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150. These must be postmarked no later than March 1, 1993. If you plan to exhibit, please indicate which class or classes you plan to enter. DO NOT serve on entries, classification, or placement if you apply to judge. Please indicate if you are experienced in any of the listed areas. If accepted, you will receive notification of assignment. Applications received after March 15, 1993 will be filed in the event of cancellations and/or vacancies.

Name _____

Address _____

Classes entered _____

Type of Judge: ☐ Advanced ☐ Senior ☐ Master ☐ AGGS ☐ Nat'l Council

Experience: ☐ Minis/Semiminis ☐ Trailers ☐ Species ☐ Design ☐ Commercial

Attention: Judges Clerks

Student and Advanced Judges are invited to serve as clerks for the Lancaster show. Any vacancies may be filled by other members. This means AVSA members may apply to serve as clerks; however, judges will be given first preference. Any positions remaining will be filled by members in the order in which application was received. All clerks will be notified with duties explained. Mail to: Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150. These must be postmarked no later than March 15, 1993.

Name _____

Address _____

☐ Student Judge ☐ Advanced Judge ☐ AVSA Member

Design Division Reservations

Name _____

Address & phone _____

I would like to enter the following design classes: (Limit six, excluding container gardens)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

Alternate Choices: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

I would like to enter container gardens in the following classes: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Entries will be accepted only if postmarked no sooner than February 1, 1993. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Reservations will be on a first come basis. Please give your name, address, and telephone number so if there are cancellations or additional openings, exhibitors may be notified. Send reservations **BEFORE** March 15, 1993, to: Joyce McMullen, 478 Valley View Road, Langhorne, PA 19047. Exhibitors who wish to cancel reservations **must write or call** (215-752-2554), after 6:00 p.m.

NEEDED ...

... YOUR Columbus (OH) AVSA 1992 Convention slides (or color prints)!

If you have color slides or prints of tours, workshops, banquets, meetings, registration or the beautiful show, PLEASE share them!

These slides or prints are needed to continue our traditional Thursday night slide show of the previous convention.

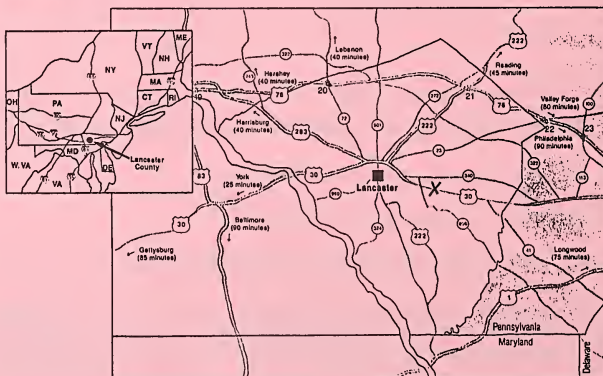
The selected slides will be used at the 1993 AVSA Convention in Lancaster, PA. Slides not selected, will be returned to the sender. Those slides utilized in the presentation can not be returned, as they become part of the AVSA collection.

Please send your slides or color prints to:
Jim Whitaker, 2085 Leeward Lane, Merritt Island, FL 32953

Ground Transportation For Those Arriving By Air

The Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center provides free transportation to and from the Lancaster Airport. Arrangements are being made for transporting our attendees arriving at the Harrisburg Airport. This information will follow in the March/April issue of the AVM and included in the registration confirmations when the registration form indicates arrival will be in Harrisburg. There will be a charge for this service.

How To Get There



The Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center is located on Highway 30, which is also Lincoln Highway East.

Attention: Hybridizers

It's later than you think — time once again to get the cameras out and take slides of your new cultivars for the Lancaster convention.

Once again, I will be doing the program of new cultivars at the Saturday luncheon. This is your opportunity to show off your new introductions to the hundreds of people in attendance. This is a great chance for some free advertising.

I must have your slides by April 1, 1993, so I can work up the program. I would like a slide of the plant and a close-up of the blossom, if possible. Please include a description of the plant.

You may send as many as you like and I will try to work them into the program.

The convention in Lancaster is your opportunity to show off your latest hybrids. The dates are April 19 - 24, 1993.

Send your slides to:

J. R. Pittman
12406 Alexandria
San Antonio, TX 78233

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

47th Annual Convention & Show Monday, April 19 - Saturday, April 24, 1993

Lancaster Host Golf Resort and Conference Center
2300 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA 17602 ph. (717) 299-5500

THEME: "You've Got A Friend in Pennsylvania"

Sponsored by: TRISTATE AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL

SUNDAY, April 18, 1993

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Convention Registration & Information

MONDAY, April 19, 1993

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Convention Registration & Information

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Tour #1 - Mennonite Tour & Millers Smorgasbord**

8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. **Tour #2 - The Gettysburg Battlefield & Eisenhower Farm**

TUESDAY, April 20, 1993

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Convention Registration & Information

8:00 a.m. to completion..... Executive Committee meeting

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **Tour #3 - The Tinari's Greenhouses**

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Tour #4 - Longwood Gardens & The Mushroom Museum**

2:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. Committee Meetings: Affiliate - Advertising - Awards - Commercial Activities - Commercial Sales & Exhibits - Finance - Shows & Judges - Future Directions

3:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. Committee Meetings: Convention - Membership & Promotion - Publications - Nominating - International - Miniature and Semiminiature

4:00 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. Vice Presidents Meetings with Committee Chairmen

6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. **Tour #5 - Good & Plenty Dinner Tour**

9:15 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. Salary Committee Meeting and Ways & Means Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, April 21, 1993

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Judging School

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Convention Registration & Information

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tour #6 - Mennonite Tour, Kitchen Kettle & Bird-in-Hand**

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Tour #7 - Hershey, PA**

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Board of Directors Opening Meeting

9:00 a.m. to noon AVSA Information & Sales

9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Building Fund Committee Meeting

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Denver Promotional Table

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lancaster Promotional Table

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Booster Fund Table

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Building Fund Table

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ways & Means Table

1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. AVSA Information & Sales

5:45 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. **Tour #8 - The Dutch Apple Dinner Theater**

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Classification & Entries for convention workers only

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. President's Reception for members of the Board

THURSDAY, April 22, 1993

7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.Commercial Sales open
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**Tour #9 - Longwood Gardens & The Mushroom Museum**
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.Convention Registration & Information
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**Tour #10 - Strasburg Railroad, Train Ride, Railroad Museum & lunch at The Red Caboose**
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.Hospitality Room
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.Classification & Entries
9:00 a.m. to noonAVSA Information & Sales
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.Denver Promotional Table
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.Lancaster Promotional Table
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.Booster Fund Table
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.Building Fund Table
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.Ways & Means Table
12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.Classification & Entries
1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.AVSA Information & Sales
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.Hospitality Room
4:00 p.m. to completion.....Library Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.Teachers Supper
8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.Commercial Sales Room Open
8:00 p.m. to completion.....Board of Directors Meeting
8:30 p.m.Social Hour & Slides (ONE SHOWING ONLY)
11:00 p.m.Design work will close for the night

FRIDAY, April 23, 1993

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.Design Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs for **replacement of blossoms only.**
7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.Commercial Members Breakfast
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.Convention Registration & Information
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.Instructions for those judging & clerking for the show
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.Commercial Sales open
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.Hospitality Room
9:00 a.m. to noonAVSA Information & Sales
9:00 a.m. to noonAgriculture Officials available to certify plant material for transporting into controlled countries and states
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**Presentation 1**
"Not So Friendly Pests" - Pests - Dr. Charles Cole, speaker
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**Presentation 2**
"Violets Closest Friends" - Gesneriads - Laura Shannon, speaker
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.Denver Promotional Table
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.Lancaster Promotional Table
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.Booster Fund Table
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.Building Fund Table
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.Ways & Means Table
10:00 a.m. to completion.....Judging of Show
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**Presentation 3**
"Little Friends are Fun" - Miniatures - Betty Tapping, speaker
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**Presentation 4**
"Friends Share Show Plant Secrets" - Show Plants
Sophie Martin & Phyllis Harris, speakers
1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.AVSA Information & Sales
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.Hospitality Room
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**Presentation 5**
"Trailing Around the Amish Country" - Trailers
Beverly Promersberger, speaker

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Presentation 6**

"Designing Friends" - Terrariums & Dish Gardens

Edna Rourke, speaker

4:30 p.m. to completion Photography - AVM & Library

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Opening Reception (cash bar)

6:30 p.m. to completion Opening Dinner - Show Awards will be presented

9:30 p.m. to midnight Show open to AVSA convention registrants ONLY

9:30 p.m. to midnight Commercial Sales open

SATURDAY, April 24, 1993

7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Judges Breakfast & Workshop

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Convention Registration & Information

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Show Room open to public

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Commercial Sales open

9:00 a.m. to noon AVSA Information & Sales

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Hospitality Room

9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **Presentation 7**

"Not So Friendly Pests" - Pests - Dr. Charles Cole, speaker

9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **Presentation 8**

"Friends Share Show Plant Secrets" - Show Plants

Sophie Martin & Phyllis Harris, speakers

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Denver Promotional Table

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lancaster Promotional Table

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Booster Fund Table

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Building Fund Table

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ways & Means Table

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Presentation 9** - "Beginners Forum"

Mary Boland, moderator

Dr. Charles Cole, Marie Burns, Anne Tinari, panelists

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Luncheon (slides of new introductions)

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Hospitality Room open

2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. AVSA Information & Sales

3:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting & Open Forum

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. President's Reception & Hospitality Hour

Meet and congratulate the show winners

Cash Bar (non-alcoholic punch provided)

6:45 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. **Grand Finale**

Banquet & Entertainment

Awards to be presented:

Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award

Publications Awards

Honorary Society Awards

9:45 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Show Room open

11:00 p.m. Instructions for entry check out

11:10 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Entries Check Out

SUNDAY, April 25, 1992

6:00 a.m. to noon Commercial Sales break down

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Entries check out

10:00 a.m. to noon Show Room clean up

10:00 a.m. to completion Board of Directors meeting

Noon to 1:00 p.m. Board of Directors luncheon

***** ALL AREAS MUST BE CLEARED BY NOON *****

USAir

Special Arrangements for The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

USAir has been designated as the official carrier for attendees of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., April 19-24, 1993, in Lancaster, PA. Together, USAir, USAir Express and USAir Shuttle offer more than 5,082 flights daily to more than 211 cities. For your convention in Lancaster, USAir Express offers over 10 flights/400 seats daily. Of course, each USAir Frequent Traveler member will earn a minimum of 750 Frequent Traveler miles when flying on USAir to the convention. Valid travel dates are April 16-27, 1993. For the most current flight and fare information and personalized service, contact:

USAir's Meeting and Convention Reservation Office

1-800-334-8644

8:00 AM - 9:00 PM (Eastern Time)

Refer to Gold File No. 16990014

Once your reservations are confirmed, we will mail the tickets to you or suggest several other convenient methods of purchase. If you normally use the services of a travel agent or corporate travel department, please have them place the call for you.

"USAir Begins With You"

SAVINGS STARTING AT

40% OFF

REGULAR COACH FARE

AmericanAirlines®

offers attendees a special Meeting Saver Fare®

To the African Violet Society

in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania • April 19-24, 1993 (Travel Dates: April 16-27, 1993)

To take advantage of this exclusive low fare, you must purchase your ticket 7/14 days prior to departure. If a deeper discount is available from your departure city, you will earn an additional 5% off that low promotional fare when you meet all requirements of the tariff. Tickets may be obtained from American Airlines or through your travel agent. The special Meeting Saver Fare® is valid for roundtrip travel to Harrisburg on American Airlines & American Eagle domestic segments — including Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda and the Bahamas — and is available only through the Meeting Services Desk. Meeting Saver and other promotional fares vary between cities of departure and Harrisburg. To find out what special fares are available from your departure city, call the Meeting Services Desk TOLL FREE from anywhere in Canada and the USA (including Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) seven days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight central time. Dial

1-800-433-1790



Ask for STAR File #S-01434K

Reservations Service for the Hearing and Speech Impaired is available
24 hours, 7 days a week. Continental U.S.; Hawaii, San Juan, PR;
U.S. Virgin Islands call 1-800-582-1573

This certificate is not transferable and not redeemable for cash.
Note: The Meeting Saver Fare®, is subject to a \$30 service fee
on full or partial ticket refunds. The fee does not apply to standard published fares.

From international areas, call your local
American Airlines reservation office and
ask for the International Congress desk.



SUPER DOOPER

new cultivar from display table
Columbus (OH) 1992 AVSA Convention
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

Proposed Amendments to AVSA Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee has submitted the following amendments to be voted on at the annual business meeting, Saturday, April 24, 1993, in Lancaster, PA.

Proposal:

To amend Article III, MEMBERSHIP AND DUES, Section 2 e. Striking out e. and inserting:

e. AWARD MEMBERSHIP: may be given by the Awards Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee, provided that not more than five (5) Honorary One Year Memberships and not more than one (1) Honorary Life Membership be awarded in any one AVSA fiscal year. An Honorary Life Member shall be a person given a Life Membership for outstanding services, and who shall have all privileges of membership but shall be exempt from future payment of dues. An Honorary One Year Membership shall be awarded to a member who has given outstanding service and leadership to the Society.

Justification:

Limits the number of Honorary One Year Memberships that may be awarded to five (5) in an AVSA fiscal year. Other rewording is for consistency of style.

Current Bylaws:

e. AWARD MEMBERSHIP: may be given by the Awards Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee, provided not more than ten (10) Honorary One Year Memberships and not more than one (1) Honorary Life Membership be awarded in any one AVSA fiscal year.

Proposal:

To amend Article IV, OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES, Section 2, REGIONAL DIRECTORS, by striking out the second sentence and inserting: They shall be elected from the membership-at-large, at least one (1)

and no more than two (2) of whom shall be a resident of a nation other than the United States.

Justification:

AVSA is becoming more international each year. The new language reflects this. This amendment would allow more than one (1) non-USA director.

Current Bylaws:

Article IV, OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES, Section 2, REGIONAL DIRECTORS: who shall be not more than fifteen (15) nor less than fourteen (14) in number. They shall be elected from the membership-at-large, one (1) of which shall be a resident of another nation. They shall be elected to serve terms of three (3) years each, five (5) being elected each year.

Proposal:

To amend Article IV, OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES, Section 2, REGIONAL DIRECTORS: by striking out the third sentence: They shall be elected to serve terms of three (3) years each, five (5) being elected each year.

Justification:

Relocated to Article V, NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, Section 2.

Current Bylaws:

Article IV, OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES, Section 2, REGIONAL DIRECTORS: who shall not be more than fifteen (15) nor less than fourteen (14) in number. They shall be elected from the membership-at-large, one (1) of which shall be a resident of another nation. They shall be elected to serve terms of three (3) years each, five (5) being elected each year.

Proposal:

To amend Article V, NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, Section 2, by striking out the third sentence and inserting: Directors

shall be elected to serve terms of three (3) years, five (5) being elected each year.

Justification:

No substantive change. Reworded and relocated for greater clarity.

Current Bylaws:

Section 2. The terms of elected officers shall be one (1) year or until their successors are elected and each term shall begin at the conclusion of the convention at which the officers are elected. No elected officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office except the Secretary and the Treasurer who shall be limited to eight (8) consecutive terms. The terms of the Directors shall be governed by Article IV, Section 2. The Directors shall not succeed themselves.

Proposal:

To amend Article V, NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, Section 2, by striking out the first two sentences and inserting: Section 2. The terms of elected officers shall be two (2) years or until their successors are elected and each term shall begin at the conclusion of the convention at which the officers are elected. No officer shall serve consecutive terms in the same office except the Secretary and the Treasurer who shall be limited to four (4) consecutive terms.

Justification:

This amendment changes the term of elected officers, President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, permitting better long range planning and goal setting.

Current Bylaws:

Section 2. The terms of elected officers shall be one (1) year or until their successors are elected and each term shall

begin at the conclusion of the convention at which the officers are elected. No elected officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office except the Secretary and the Treasurer who shall be limited to eight (8) consecutive terms. The terms of the Directors shall be governed by Article IV, Section 2. The Directors shall not succeed themselves.

Proposal:

To amend Article VII, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 1. b. by striking out "the" and inserting "a balanced." The sentence would then read: b. Approve a balanced budget.

Justification:

Would prevent adoption of a deficit budget.

Current Bylaws:

b. Approve the budget.

Proposal:

To amend Article IX, FINANCE, Section 3. INVESTMENTS: by striking out the last two (2) sentences.

Justification:

Current donations are meeting the needs of BERF. Commercial dues monies are needed in the general fund. Any needed guidelines may be added to Policies and Procedures.

Current Bylaws:

INVESTMENTS: All monies received for Life Membership dues shall be invested by the Treasurer as directed by the Board of Directors. The interest in part accruing therefrom shall be used to provide for subscriptions to the AVM each year, for each Life Member and for each Honorary Life Member. The balance of the interest shall be used for the support of AVSA. All monies received from the commercial membership dues over and above three dollars more than individual membership dues shall be deposited in the

Boyce Edens Research Fund special investment account. Individual donations to this fund shall also be deposited in the BERF account.

Proposal:

To amend Article X, COMMITTEES, Section 1, f. CONVENTION: by striking out "and special meetings."

Justification:

Special meetings of the Board of Directors are no longer held, thus the removal of this duty from this committee.

Current Bylaws:

f. CONVENTION: shall be responsible for the planning and direction of all AVSA conventions and special meetings.

Proposal:

To amend Article X, COMMITTEES, Section 1, g. FINANCE: by inserting between "prepare a" and "budget" the word "balanced." The sentence would then read: g. FINANCE: shall prepare a balanced budget in detail for guidance during the ensuing year, and assist the Treasurer and AVSA office with Society business.

Justification:

Would require preparation of a balanced budget for presentation to the Board of Directors.

Current Bylaws:

g. FINANCE: shall prepare a budget in detail for guidance during the ensuing year, and assist the Treasurer and AVSA office with Society business.

Proposal:

To amend Article X, COMMITTEES, Section 1, i. MASTER VARIETY LIST by striking out i. and inserting: i. MASTER LIST OF SPECIES AND CULTIVARS: shall be responsible for the compilation of the Master List of Species and Cultivars and its annual supplements.

Justification:

Change in name of the committee

and the list more accurately describes its current scope.

Current Bylaws:

i. MASTER VARIETY LIST: shall be responsible for the compilation of the Master Variety List and its annual supplements.

Proposal:

To amend Article XII, AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS, by adding after considered. Or without notice by a nine-tenths (9/10) vote provided that the amendment has been approved for consideration at a meeting of the Board of Directors by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Justification:

This amendment would allow for emergency action by a very large majority without waiting a full year for consideration.

Current Bylaws:

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS. These Bylaws may be amended at any annual business meeting or special meeting of the membership by a two-thirds (2/3) vote provided that the changes have been:

- A. Approved by a majority of the Board of Directors for consideration by the membership, and
- B. Distributed to the membership at least forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting at which they are to be considered.

The Bylaws Committee recommends that the committee be authorized to correct numbers, punctuation, cross reference, and make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intention of the members.

That the adopted Bylaws amendments become effective at the close of the 1993 convention.

**May 1993
bring you
nothing
but blue ribbons!**



Ness' Pink Ribbons

MIDLAND VIOLETS

Ness' Red Sparkler





Peachy Kid

HORTENSE PITTMAN

Burgundy Kid



Two Ways to Propagate Chimeras

PAT HANCOCK

7118 Barrett Rd.

P. O. Box 8085

West Chester, OH 45069

What is a "chimera?" ... and WHY can't it be propagated from a leaf cutting in the same way as other African violets?

Most African violets have only one type of genetic material in their makeup. Sometimes, however, in periods of rapid growth and during early development, plant cells mutate and form new, genetically different cells, which have different physical characteristics from the original cells. At this point, one of two things generally happens. In the case of most tiny new plants, the older cells containing the original genetic material will cease to grow and the new plant will contain only the new genetic material. This new plant will not look exactly like its mother, but will be different in one or more characteristics. THIS TYPE OF MUTATION IS CALLED A SPORT.

Once in a while, something else occurs in the mutation process, and both types of genetic material continue to grow and produce cells of their own genetic makeup. The result of this is a new plant that contains two genetically different plants within the one. This plant is called a CHIMERA. These two genetically different violet tissues grow together in such a way that a pinwheel design is exhibited in the bloom. When this happens, the cells tend to become segregated into different tissue layers. When the flower buds, and blooms, the outer edges of the petals grow

from certain tissue layers, and the center of each petal grows from other tissue layers. Thus, you have a striped blossom with two different genetic layers — one that produces the center of the blossom and one that produces the outside edge.

Chimeras can be a problem to reproduce since both types of genetic material must be included in the new plant. Chimera characteristics are not sexually inheritable. In leaf cuttings, tissue that produces the petal centers tend to be segregated from the layers of the stem that produce the outer edges of the petals. Since each leaf cutting plantlet is usually formed from a single tissue layer, the resulting plant will be one or the other of the colors — but not both. Blossom and leaf types will usually be the same, but the stripes will be lost. Most people who wish to reproduce chimeras do so from suckers. However, plants that you want to "sucker" seldom do and if you take out the center of a plant in order to make it "sucker," you may ruin the symmetry of the plant forever.

The good news is that "suckers" are not the only way to produce chimeras and the following are two ways that have been most successful for me.

BLOOM STALKS are the greatest!!! They are expendable — we pull them off and throw them away when they fade. BUT, wonder of wonders, they are the greatest way in which to repro-

duce chimeras.

I have many large, beautiful violets that were grown from bloom stems. You would never guess from looking at them that they had been grown from a tiny 1-inch bloom stem. You need not limit yourself to chimeras alone, as any violet will grow from a bloom stem. Sometimes, you might have a show plant with perfect symmetry that you would hate to take a leaf from — you will never miss a bloom stem, and it will do just as well.

The difference in my two methods is that in the first, the stem is severed from the plant and planted. In the second, the stem is left on the plant, treated with 'Keiki-Grow Plus,' and left to mature into multiple suckers which can then be rooted. Both of these methods work very well and the decision as to which will work better on which plant, depends on several things:

1. Plants with very tiny bracts tend to do better when left to grow on the plant.

2. Plants with larger bracts will do just as well when cut off from the plant and planted. They will also do well when left on the plant.

3. If your plant is a show plant, you would not want suckers growing from bloom stems attached to it, so you would cut them off.

4. Variegated plants with very light bracts will not root when cut from the plant, but they will do very nicely when left on the plant.

BOTH METHODS ARE SIMPLE AND THE REWARDS ARE GREAT.

If you plan to cut the bloom stems off, you will need the following supplies:

1. clear plastic Solo cups - 14 oz. size
2. 3" squatty pots
3. single-edge razor blade
4. Rootone powder
5. Red Heart 4-ply acrylic yarn for wick
6. coarse perlite for bottom of pot
7. regular soil mixture for middle of pot
8. coarse (Hyponex brand) vermiculite for top 1/2" of pot
9. reservoir containing 20/20/20 fertilizer solution (1/4 teaspoon per gallon)

Wet wick thoroughly and poke up through one of the holes in the bottom of the pot. Pull the wick up and across the top of the pot. Fill bottom one inch of pot with moistened perlite. Add soil mixture to within one inch of the top. Bury the wick in the soil and add the vermiculite to the top. Mix vermiculite into the soil slightly with your fingers and moisten the pot well. Make a cut diagonally with your razor blade about one inch below the bract. Remove all buds and blooms as close to the bract as possible. Barely touch the bottom cut end with Rootone and let cure for about 15 minutes. Poke a hole in the pot and insert up to the bract. I usually plant about four or five stems in each pot with name tags beside them. Lastly, cover with the clear cup and tighten it firmly. Insert wick into fertilizer water and place about 10 inches below fluorescent lights. In about a month you will see tiny leaves start to

form in the middle of each bract. When plants are about 1-1/2 to 2" across, harden off and plant in regular soil. You might want to cover with a plastic bag for a week or so until they take hold.

For the second method, you will need the following supplies:

1. sharp, single-edge razor blade
2. toothpick
3. 'Keiki-Grow Plus' - a plant growth regulator containing hormones with cytokinins in lanolin paste plus two important vitamins for healthy growth. (This is very expensive stuff and it takes only the tiniest little bit, so it would be wise for two or three to buy a bottle together and share.)
4. fish emulsion for foliar feeding.

Choose a bloom stem that is still strong and not wilted. With razor blade, cut as closely as possible to the bract, removing all buds and blossoms. Insert toothpick into "Keiki-Grow Plus" and rub tiniest amount on spot where blossoms were removed. In about a month, suckers will appear at this spot. Foliar feed

once each week with 1/4 teaspoon fish emulsion per gallon of water. When suckers are about one inch across, separate with razor blade and pot in soil/vermiculite mixture. Wet down well and cover with plastic bag or clear Solo cup. When suckers are well rooted, pot up in regular soil mixture.

Chimeras are among the most beautiful of all African violets. I hope that by using these two methods, you will be able to add some of these beautiful plants to your collection of violets, and that you will enjoy growing them as much as I do.

For more information on chimeras, please see:

- "Chimeras," *AVM*, p. 12, June 1984
- "The Elusive Chimera," *AVM*, p. 4, June 1984
- AVM*, "Ask Your Hybridizer," p. 15, March 1986
- "Have You Tried Planting Flower Stems," *AVM*, p. 49, November 1985
- "Successful Propagating From Bloom Stalks," *AVM*, p. 14, September 1991

Cape AVS Will Hold Contest

The annual show of the Cape AVS of Cape Town, South Africa, was held in Sept., in combination with a celebration to honor Baron von St. Paul and his grandniece, Ursula Krynauer who told the assembly all about the family's own information about the Baron.

A special African violet coffee mug commemorating the centenary of the discovery of the African violet is being offered to the readers of the *African Violet Magazine*.

This special competition is

for all American readers and growers. To compete, readers are requested to submit one to four slides of an African violet hybridized in the United States.

Slides are to be marked with name of plant and name and address of competitor. Please send slides to: Charl Duncan, 14 Marion Ave., Southfield 7800, Cape Town, South Africa, no later than Apr. 1, 1993.

(Editor's Note: One of these commemorative mugs was sent to the AVSA office and I can attest to its beauty. Any violet grower would be proud to have it.)



Glacier White

VOLKMANN BROS. GREENHOUSES

Smokey Blue



Introducing your AVSA nominees ...

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Hortense Pittman
... for President



L. T. Ozlo, Jr.
... for 1st VP



Esther Edwards Wells
... for 2nd VP



Bill Foster
... for 3rd VP



Janet Riemer
... for Secretary



Meredith Hall
... for Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Florence Naylor



Bev Promersberger



Diane Richardson



Emilie Savage



Ruth Warren

FOR PRESIDENT: Mrs. J. R. (Hortense) Pittman of San Antonio, Texas, has been a member of AVSA for over 20 years and is an AVSA senior judge.

Hortense attended her first AVSA convention in St. Louis in 1977 and has attended every convention since. She and her husband, Sundown, became interested in hybridizing through the late Howard Utz, some 13 years ago and together they own and operate "Hortense's African Violets." They were awarded the AVSA Bronze Medal for Horticultural Perfection in 1986.

She is a director for the Dixie AVS, a past president of the Lone Star AVS, the San Antonio AV Council, the Central Texas Judges Council, and the Magic Knight AVS.

She has served as an AVSA director, first, second, and third vice presidents.

Other than growing and showing African violets, Hortense and her husband enjoy doing programs on violet culture throughout the country. They judged the first AVSA show in Mexico, where they have conducted a number of workshops.

FOR FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: L. T. Ozlo, Jr., of Morgan City, Louisiana, has been growing African violets for over 23 years and has been a member of AVSA since 1973. He and his wife, Yvonne, are very active in their local affiliate, the Atchafalaya VS, of which they are charter members.

Both L. T. and Yvonne are Life Members, senior

judges, and both are the recipients of the AVSA Honorary One Year Membership. L. T. has served as a member of the AVSA Board of Directors, chair of the Library committee, and as third vice president. He became an AVSA teacher in 1983 and promotes the culture of African violets through programs and workshops at AVSA local and state affiliates, garden clubs, and other plant societies.

A member of Dixie AVS, he is a charter member of the Louisiana Council of AV Judges and Growers and served as charter secretary for two consecutive terms.

L. T. and Yvonne enjoy traveling. Their first AVSA convention was in Austin, TX in 1978 and they have attended every convention since.

FOR SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Esther Edwards Wells of Liberty, Missouri, has been a member of AVSA since 1981. She is a member of Mid-America AVS and has served as president, first and second vice president and treasurer. She is currently serving her second term as president of Mid-America. Esther is a charter member of the Missouri Valley AV Council and has served as its first secretary and bylaws chair.

Esther has served AVSA as director, third vice president, and Awards committee chair. She was convention chair for the 1989 AVSA convention in Kansas City.

Esther holds an M.S. degree in Student Personnel Administration from Central Missouri State University and a B.A. in Mathematics and Psychology from William Jewell College.

She is married to Charles Wells who assists her with all of her violet projects. She is a

member of the Garden Center Association of Kansas City.

FOR THIRD VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Foster of Mesquite, Texas, has been a member of AVSA for 20 years. He is a Life Member, a senior judge and a teacher, and served as Affiliate Chairman for AVSA from 1986-1990 when appointed to the job of AVSA Chairman of Shows & Judges, a job he still holds.

Bill is a member and past president of First Nighter AVS of Dallas, a member and past president of The First AVS of Dallas, a charter member and past president of North Texas African Violet Judges Council, a member and past president of The Lone Star African Violet Council, and an honorary member of Alpha AVS of Dallas, and served as convention chairman for the AVSA convention in Dallas in 1988.

Bill retired in 1986 after a 31-year career with Atlantic Richfield. He is married to Paula, who is also very involved in African violets and AVSA. They have a grown daughter and son.

Other than hybridizing and caring for their many violets and club activities, Bill and Paula are woodcrafters.

FOR SECRETARY: Mrs. Donald (Janet) Riemer is from Pennington, New Jersey and has been a member of AVSA since 1964. She has been a member of the Union County Chapter since 1969 and has served in many offices for the club. Janet is a Life Member and a senior judge. She served as show vice chair and entries chair at the Philadelphia AVSA convention in 1984. She has been a member of the Tri-State AV Council since 1971 and is a great promoter of the much loved Max Maas hybrids.

Janet has served AVSA as director and secretary. She received the first Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership and has received a Continuing Service Award.

She is married and presently works in the Special Collections and Archives Department at Rutgers University.

FOR TREASURER: Meredith Hall of Houston, has been a member of AVSA for 23 years, and a Life Member since 1978. She is a senior judge and a teacher.

Meredith attended her first AVSA convention in Austin in 1978 and has attended every one since then. She is the owner of The African Violetry, since 1975, and sells plants and supplies to retail customers.

A director in the Dixie AVS, she is past president of Lone Star AVS, Central Texas Judges Council, the African Violet Study Club of Houston and the Spring Branch AVC. Currently she is cochairman for Commercial Sales & Exhibits and Publications. Meredith served as advertising manager for the AVM for seven years.

Her hobbies are ceramics, sewing and gardening — especially hibiscus, of which she has a large collection.

FOR DIRECTOR: Florence Naylor of Ventura, California, has been a member of AVSA since 1978. She is an AVSA senior judge and member of the Judges Council of Southern California. She has been president, vice president and recording secretary for the Ventura County AVS and president of the African Violet Council of Southern California. She has chaired several California state conventions.

Florence is currently the

chairman of the AVSA Miniature/Semiminature Committee and writes the "mini-tidbits" column for the AVM.

She has always been interested in miniature and semiminature African violets with species coming in a close second. She grows most gesneriads to stay current, but favors fibrous rooted plants.

FOR DIRECTOR: Bev Promersberger of Monument, Colorado has been growing African violets for 16 years. She is a Life Member of AVSA and an advanced judge. With college degrees in speech and drama, Bev has enjoyed using her training to share her knowledge of growing African violets and to promote membership in AVSA. She has lectured to local garden clubs as well as local, state, and regional affiliates.

Bev was active in the Potomac Council of African Violet Judges (VA), as well as the Old Dominion AVS (VA), where she served in many capacities. She is also a charter member of the newly formed Mid Atlantic AVS. A recent resident of Louisiana, Bev was a member of the Dixie AVS, the Louisiana Council of Judges and Growers, and the Alexandria AVS. She was also the co-organizer and leader of the AV Study Group of Leesville.

Bev has served as vice chairman of the MVL committee and has been a member of the Membership & Promotion committee for five years.

FOR DIRECTOR: M. Diane Richardson of Baltimore, Maryland, has been a member of AVSA for seven years and won her Life Membership at her first AVSA convention in Orlando in 1986. She is a member of the Baltimore AVC and has served in many capacities, including

president. She is also a member of the Sugarloaf Mountain VS, New York State AVS, Dixie AVS and the AVS of Canada. As an advanced judge, she is a member of the Potomac Council of AV Judges and the New York State Council of AV Judges.

Currently, Diane is president and membership chairman and one of the founding members of the Mid Atlantic AVS. She is cochairman of publicity for the 1993 Lancaster convention and is advertising manager for the AVM. Diane specializes in the growing of species and gives many lectures each year on their culture. She is a sales manager for a food broker and works with her son, Michael. Another son, Jim, is a college student.

FOR DIRECTOR: Emilie B. Savage of Chillicothe, Ohio, has been a member of AVSA since 1956 and a judge since 1958. She is now a master judge and teacher. Her first violet club was the Pittsburgh AVS and when she moved to Atlanta, GA, she became president of the Saintpaulia Study Club, and joined the Dixie AVS. She has been a member of the Columbus (OH) AVS since 1967, and has served in many capacities.

Emilie has also served as president in the Ohio State AVS and the Ohio State Judges Council. She was chairman of the AVSA Shows and Judges Committee from 1984 - 1989, when she resigned to be co-vice chairman of the AVSA convention in 1992 in Columbus. She is the recipient of the AVSA Honorary One Year Membership, as well as the Continuing Service Award.

As a consultant to Dr. Daniel Lineberger of the Horticulture Department of the Ohio State University, she has worked on

various experiments in African violet tissue culture. One of her current interests is the development of African violet chimeras through tissue culture.

Emilie has taught judging schools all over the United States, as well as three AVSA convention judging schools. She also lectures on tissue culture.

She is active in her local community by participating in many civic and church organizations, being interested in art and music. Her husband, Jim, is a retired executive and does consulting work in sales and marketing overseas. His last job was in Amman, Jordan, where Emilie joined him for a two months stay.

FOR DIRECTOR: Ruth Warren of Fall River, Massachusetts has been an AVSA member for 22 years and is a senior judge. Ruth has served all offices in the Moby Dick AVC and is currently its treasurer. She is presently serving as president of the Bay State AVS for the second time and has held all offices over the past 15 years.

Ruth served as the 1990 Boston convention chairman and is a past director of AVSA and has received the Honorary One-Year Membership Award twice.

She currently serves as AVSA Booster Fund chairman, and is a member of the library committee, is the room sharing coordinator for AVSA conventions, a member of the convention committee and vice chairman of the Ways and Means committee for AVSA.

Ruth is a retired physical education teacher in the Fall River school department. She and her late husband, Bert, have a son and a daughter and four grandchildren.

The AVSA SPOTLIGHT is on ... Betty Tapping

African Violet Society of Canada

CHANTAL PARE'

*391 Montrose
Beaconsfield, Quebec
Canada H9W 6G2*

When most people think of fierce competition, professional sports is most likely first on their minds. For some others, however, competition spells

A-F-R-I-C-A-N V-I-O-L-E-T.

Betty Tapping is famous throughout North America for growing African violets to a perfection that borders on the surrealistic.

Modest about her accomplishments, she states that "many growers would make for a more interesting article." But few Canadian growers can boast being a Senior Judge and Judging School Teacher for The African Violet Society of America (AVSA), as well as Master Judge, lecturer and Judging School Teacher for the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society. She is also second vice president of the African Violet Society of Canada, editor of the Toronto Gesneriad Society Newsletter and director for the New York State African Violet Society. Betty has also been awarded a Flora-Cart plant stand prize in three consecutive years at AVSA shows for her exquisite entries.

Such outstanding achievements do not come without determination, love for competition, and, of course, every-

thing violet. Daughter of Scottish farmers, she started to miss her garden when she moved from a house to an apartment back in 1975. All of us lovers of greenery can sympathize and understand how vulnerable she was when she walked into an African Violet Society of Canada Convention Show that had been advertised on the radio. There, whimsical miniatures, showy variegates and flashy blooms with stripes, dots, margins, two-tones and pinwheel patterns grown to their fullest potential worked their magic. She brought a few home, only to be hooked for now almost 20 years. Well aware that good lighting is the single most important factor for success, she immediately purchased a two-tiered artificial light unit and within a year, she had won seven ribbons. She now has her third bedroom equipped with six indoor light units filled with some of the most pampered violets and gesneriads in Canada. Apart from the occasional "repotting weekend," only about six hours a week are necessary to tend her brood.

She had befriended Canadian hybridizers (late) Ernie Fisher and John Brownlie from her early days in the hobby, and they have been a good source of growing advice. Tapping's Soil, the growing medium prepared by fellow enthusiast and hus-

band, Bud Tapping, originated from recommendations by Ernie Fisher himself. Unlike the heavy African violet mixes sold in supermarkets, it is light textured with good air and water retention and a good balance of nutrients. She uses fertilizer very sparsely, but with every watering. Her schedule is simple and easy to remember: for one gallon of water, she adds one drop of Superthrive, one quarter teaspoon 20-20-20, alternating with one quarter teaspoon 12-36-14. Two months before a show, she uses only the 12-36-14 to promote blooming. Although she uses one cool white and one warm white fluorescent for each fixture to be economical, she does like the wide spectrum lights because they trick the eye in a way that makes the bloom colors appear more intense.

The unusual and the challenging appeals to her. Thus, it is not so surprising that 'Christmas Candy-O,' an original, light pink, double flower with a fringed raspberry edge and a known shy bloomer (except, perhaps, for her), ranks as her favorite of all times.

She would like to see more gesneriads grown casually, and is happy to promote this underused family of plants, that includes African violets, on the lecture circuit: it is full of excellent potential houseplant varieties, all with either colored foliage, showy flowers, or both.

(Editor's Note: If you have an outstanding "grower" in your club or in your area, please consider interviewing them and placing them in the AVSA Spotlight.)

Trains ... Trains ... Trains ... Trains ...

Do you love trains? If you do, the Lancaster area is definitely the right place for you. The world of toy trains is located just a few miles from Lancaster in Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

At the Choo Choo Barn, located on Route 741, East, a model train enthusiast can find anything they could possibly need to build a display. What started out in 1961 as a 500 square foot display with six model trains and six model animated scenes has now grown to 13 model trains and 130 animated scenes. Displayed is everything from favorite landmarks in Lancaster County to an animated Amish farm.

The Toy Train Museum located on Paradise Lane in Strasburg has hundreds of examples of original pieces from many manufacturers beginning in the 1800s to the present time. There are five huge operating layouts with locomotives and cars on display.



DIANE RICHARDSON
Publicity Cochairman
Lancaster Convention

For those interested in the real thing, there is the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania which is one of America's most comprehensive exhibits of historic locomotives and other "rolling stock." If you would like a ride on an actual train, there is America's oldest short line railroad. The

Strasburg Railroad is a steam train that features wooden coaches which travel through many of the Amish farmlands.

So please make your plans to join us April 19 through April 24, 1993 for our 47th AVSA Annual Convention and Show in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

How Should I Pack ??

Warm clothes - cool clothes - what?

Well, the weather in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in mid to late April could cover both areas.

The right idea — cool clothing, but make sure you carry along a sweater or two and a jacket for walking outdoors.

The weather at this time of year, as all violet growers can verify, is very changeable.

Average temperatures are 60-70°, but we have been known to have both warm and cool snaps — so it's best to be prepared for everything.

Come join us!



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Miniature African Violets & Gesneriads

ZOWIE! The 1993 Varieties are here!

Available now for shipping, only from Rob's Mini-o-lets

WHAT'S NEW FOR 1993

ROB'S AVIS WINNIE: Gorgeous; dbl, deep burgundy red-purple w/heavily fringed, thin white edge; deeply serrated, great var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S BEE BOOPSIE: Fringed, sdbl. med. purple two-tone blooms w/bright yellow anthers held in bouquet above great var. foliage; tiny mini

ROB'S BLUE KAZOO: Sdbl, fringed lav.-mauve, dark tips and shadings, thin white edge; dark, var. fol.; semimini

ROB'S CRAZY KILT: Chimera (\$12); fringed sdbl, fantasy pinwheel w/white center stripes; var. foliage; striking semimini

ROB'S DANDY LION: Adorable; large sdbl, bells of pewter-white w/bright yellow anthers; black, var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S DUST STORM: Dbl, very bright pink, spotted w/blue fantasy; terrific bloomer; semimini

ROB'S GRAY GHOST: Bright, clear, sparkling sdbl, white pansies; black var. fol.; great contrast of white on black; semimini

ROB'S HALF MOON: Wow!; sdbl, white pansy w/very thick, 1/4" edge of deep, hot-pink; Champion var. foliage; striking semimini

ROB'S HOKIE POKIE: Sdbl, cream pansies w/wedging of cherry-red; var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S HOT CHOCOLATE: Fringed, very deep hot-pink sdbl, blooms in bouquet above black foliage; stunning color contrast; small semimini

ROB'S ICE MAIDEN: Sdbl, silver-lavender w/darker purple splashes; dark, var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S IRIDIUM QUEEN: Spectacular; huge, triple white stars brightly edged in dk. cherry-red; beautiful semimini

ROB'S MATCH POINT: Dbl. white stars w/perfect, thick blue edge; excellent showplant; semimini

ROB'S MOON CRITTER: Unusual; large single white stars w/ speckled edging of pink, blue; Champion var. foliage; prolific semimini

ROB'S PEWTER BELLS: Sdbl, silver-blue bells over very dark, var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S PINK PRISMS: Very unique; sdbl, blush-pink w/rose speckles, then frosted rose edge, then edged white; black, var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S SMOKE RINGS: My favorite; bouquet of huge, fluffy, dbl, white stars w/excellent pink edge; fantastic bloomer and showplant; semimini

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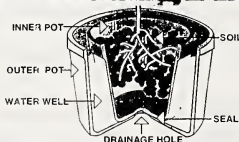
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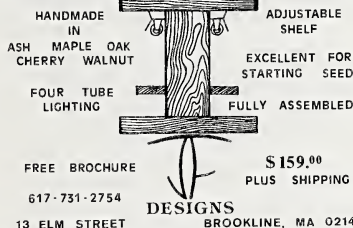
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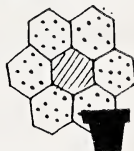


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- ★ **AUDREY BUCHANAN** (Pittman) - Clouds of pink blossoms dance with lively vigor atop wonderful foliage highlighted with Tommie Lou variegation. A stunning new **SEMIMINI** variety that is certain to be a show-stopping winner.
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1992 Cumulative Index

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TITLES

A

AFFILIATE 'APPENINGS, Owens, Lyndall, Jan p 16

AFFILIATE LIABILITY INSURANCE, Nov p 5

AFRICAN VIOLET CHLOROSIS RELATED TO EXCESS SOIL ALKALINITY, Sledge, Charles E., M.D., Mar p 50

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE ADVERTISING RATES, MECHANICALS & DEADLINES, Nov p 55

AFRICAN VIOLETS AROUND THE WORLD, Nov p 28

AFRICAN VIOLETS FOR EVERYONE, Greenbank, Abigail, Mar p 49

AFRICAN VIOLETS UNDER LIGHTS, Burns, Marie, Jan p 47

ALUMINUM FOIL-LESS, Foster, Bill, Nov p 43

AMERICA'S CELEBRATION OF DISCOVERY, Holtkamp, Reinhold, Jr., Mar p 43

AND THE WINNERS ARE, Jul p 17

ARE THE LEAF AND FLOWER ANTHOCYANINS LINKED IN AFRICAN VIOLETS?, Ives, Wendy, and Smith, Jeff, Dr., Sep p 19

AVSA AFFILIATES, Merrell, Irene, Jan p 32; May p 22

AVSA AFFILIATED CLUBS, 1992, Sep Sup, p A-9

AVSA BOOSTER FUND, Warren, Ruth, Jan p 6; Mar p 6; May p 18; Jul p 24; Sep p 6; Nov p 32

AVSA BUILDING FUND, Jantzen, Anne, Jan p 19; Mar p 16; May p 6; Jul p 26; Sep p 26; Nov p 25

AVSA COMMERCIAL MEMBERS, 1992, Sep Sup, p A-14

AVSA COMMERCIALS — A CLOSER LOOK, Buttram, David, (Joan's African Violets), Mar p 39; (The Violet House), May p 7; (Fischer Greenhouses), Nov p 13

AVSA EMBLEMS, ETC., Jan p 22; Mar p 59; May p 42

AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Lawson, Floyd, Jul p 28

AVSA JUDGES, AFFILIATES & COMMERCIAL MEMBERS, 1992, Sep Sup, p A-1

AVSA JUDGES, SENIOR JUDGES, MASTER JUDGES, STUDENT JUDGES AND TEACHERS, Sep Sup p A-1

AVSA MASTER JUDGES CERTIFIED, 1992, Skelton, Elinor, Nov p 16

AVSA PUBLICATION AWARDS, Jul p 19

AVSA SPOTLIGHT IS ON VIOLA TUCKER, THE, Covell, Marian and George, Sep p 6

AVS OF PHILADELPHIA AT FLOWER SHOW, Smith, Judith, Sep p 27

B

BAKING SODA FOLLOW-UP, Bell, Kathleen, Jul p 44

BALTIMORE AVC AND SVETLANA, Richardson, Diane, Nov p 54

BEGINNERS COLUMN, Stork, Kent and Joyce, Jan p 11; Mar p 7; May p 11; Jul p 7; Sep p 7; Nov p 7

BEST VARIETIES, 1992, Lawson, Floyd, Nov p 11

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND, Buck, Marlene, Jan p 21; Mar p 42; May p 10; Jul p 32; Sep p 39; Nov p 32

BRAND NAME SOIL MIX INGREDIENTS, Switzer, Mary Ann, Jul p 38

C

CERTIFICATES AWARDED, Rexilius, Jane, Jul p 16

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE FLOWER PIGMENTS IN AFRICAN VIOLETS: PART IV, Smith, Jeff, Dr., May p 32

CLUB CONDITION: A CAUSE FOR LEADERSHIP, Ramser, Charles D., May p 38

COLUMBUS CONVENTION/SHOW AWARDS, Wells, Esther Edwards, Jan p 41

COMING EVENTS, Jan p 9; Mar p 12; May p 16; Jul p 12; Sep p 34; Nov p 38

COMMERCIAL DIVISION-1992 COLUMBUS CONVENTION, Goetze, Ruth, Jul p 18

COMPARISON OF LEAF ANTHOCYANINS IN GENUS SAINTPAULIA, Ives, Wendy, and Smith, Jeff, Dr., Mar p 54

CREATING WITH FREDETTE, Fredette, Irene, Jan p 7; Mar p 23; May p 35; Jul p 13; Sep p

13; Nov p 26

CUMULATIVE INDEX, 1991, Green, Bob L., Jan p 67

D

DEATH OF THE SUPERMARKET VIOLET, THE, Promersberger, Bev, Sep p 22

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS, Breden, Ralph, Jul p 49

DISBUDDING FOR SHOW: DAYS TO PRIME, Beck, Gary R., May p 46

DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT, Maurus, Walt, May p 58

"DOUBLE" DOSE OF THRIPS, A, Lipson, Neil D., Jul p 15

E

"EXPERIENCE" - A GREAT TEACHER, Prutsmann, Lucille, May p 19

EFFECT OF CHELATED IRON ON A CROWN VARIEGATED AFRICAN VIOLET, Smith, Jeff, Dr., Nov p 17

F

FAMILY PORTRAIT, A, Albrecht, Georgene, Jan p 49; Mar p 21; May p 49; Jul p 21; Sep p 21; Nov p 41

FAVORITE MINIATURE/SEMIMINIATURE LIST, 1992 25, Naylor, Florence, Jul p 34

FORMING AN ORDERLY MEETING, Stenger, Joyce, Sep p 48

FRIENDS OF AVSA, Griffith, Debbie, May p 27; Nov p 21

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK, Bollar, Charles, Jan p 3; Mar p 3; May p 3; Jul p 3; Sep p 3; Nov p 3

G

GIFT GIVING MADE EASY, Tinari, Anne, Nov p 12

GREEN WITH ENVY, Albrecht, Georgene, Mar p 10

GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BY JOAN HALFORD (A BOOK REVIEW), Tinari, Anne, Mar p 20

GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS WITH WICK METHOD AND NATURAL LIGHT, Jolley, Doris Ann, May p 52

GROWING VIOLETS WITH BOTH SIDES OF THE BRAIN, Bruce, Carol, Jul p 39

H

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR VIOLET, McDonald, George, Dr., Jul p 45

HELPFUL HINTS FOR RAISING MINIATURES, Angelico, Sam, Jul p 52

HOLT KAMP GREENHOUSES TO AWARD ROSETTES, Welchel, Lynda C., May p 10

HORIKOSHI, WARREN WIN AWARDS, Jul p 17

HOW TO BUILD A PLANT STAND, Switzer, Mary Ann, Nov p 30

I

I DO IT MY WAY, Anderson, Val, May p 55

IN FRIENDSHIP TO RUSSIA AND THE UKRAINE, Gall, Mary E., Sep p 44

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, Palm, Doris Thirsk, May p 34

INTRODUCING YOUR AVSA NOMINEES, Jan p 33

J

JANE'S JOURNAL, Birge, Jane, Jan p 5; Mar p 5; May p 5; Jul p 5; Sep p 5; Nov p 5

JAPANESE TECHNIQUE FOR GROWING AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS, Kisamore, Chisako, Nov p 51

K

KERMIT'S CHRISTMAS PARTY, Wasson, Lucile, Nov p 50

L

LANCASTER'S PLACE IN HISTORY, Stahl, Julia, Nov p 20

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, Mar p 34; May p 59; Jul p 6; Nov p 6

LIBRARY MATERIALS AND RULES, Jul p 49

LOVE STORY, A, Trochiano, Chris, Nov p 32

M

MAAS MEMORIAL COLLECTION AWARDS, Riener, Janet, Sep p 24

MAKING BABIES (OR HOW TO PUT DOWN A LEAF), Richardson, Diane, Sep p 25

MASTER LIST OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, THE 1992, Lombard, Lynn, Nov Sup. p A-1

MID-ATLANTIC TO HOLD 2ND ANNUAL CONVENTION, Richardson, Diane, Sep p 29

MINI-TIDBITS, Naylor, Florence, Jan p 43; Mar p 17; May p 21; Jul p 34; Nov p 19

MINUTES, Sep p 31

MY VIOLETS ARE SUFFERING FROM CMS*,
Crist, Maggi, Sep p 38

N

**NELL-SUE TYSON RECEIVES CONTINUING
SERVICE AWARD**, Jul p 19

NEWSLINE: AVSA BEAUMONT OFFICE, Lawrence, Nancy, Jan p 4; Mar p 4; May p 4; Jul p 4; Sep p 4; Nov p 4

O

ODE TO NOLAN BLANSIT, Bruce, Carol, Nov p 32

P

**PARTIAL GLOSSARY OF AFRICAN VIOLET
TERMS, PART II, A**, Bartholomew, Pauline,
Jan p 44

**PAULA FOSTER WINS HUDSON MEMORIAL
AWARD FOR AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP**, Jul p 19

PLANT PARENTHOOD, Ulanoff, Claire, May p 47
**POTTING MIXTURE AND THE GROWTH OF
AFRICAN VIOLETS**, Tinari, Philip, Jul p 11
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO AVSA BYLAWS,
Jan p 51

Q

QUESTION BOX, Smith, James, Jan p 29; Mar p 46; May p 29; Jul p 41; Sep p 28; Nov p 48; Robinson, Ralph, Sep p 28; Nov p 48

R

RACE WITH TROPICAL RAINBELT DEFORESTATION, A, Gall, Mary E., Jan p 20

READ LABEL BEFORE "FEEDING," Fredette, Irene, May p 24

REGISTRATION REPORT, Keating, Iris, Jan p 23; Mar p 29; May p 23; Jul p 30; Sep p 30; Nov p 44

**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USE OF AVSA
LIBRARY MATERIALS**, Breden, Ralph, Jul p 49

S

SEND YOUR CHOICES, Lawson, Floyd, Jan p 18
SHOWS AND JUDGES, Foster, Bill, Jan p 26; May p 26; Sep p 46

SHOW TALK, Hoover, Darryl, Mar p 19; May p 43; Jul p 23; Sep p 14; Nov p 22

S.O.S. - SAVE OUR SPECIES, Wilkening, Karter Gene, Mar p 44

SPECIES "SPORTS," Richardson, Diane, Sep p 27

**STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT
AND CIRCULATION**, Nov p 47

T

TAKE A TRIP BACK IN TIME, Richardson, Diane, Jul p 29

TALLY TIME - 1991, Landgren, Anna Jean, Mar p 26

TEN VERY USEFUL TOOLS, Jarratt, Margaret V., Jul p 53

THERE'S A LOT TO SEE AND DO IN LANCASTER, PA, Richardson, Diane, Sep p 32

**THIRD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN POSTAL STAMP
STATUS FOR AFRICAN VIOLET, A**, Tinari, Anne, Sep p 32

'TIS THE NIGHT BEFORE SHOW TIME, Keating, Iris, Mar p 18

U

**USES FOR ALL THOSE EXTRA PLANTS ARE
LIMITLESS**, Sanger, Bob, Jul p 52

V

VIOLET LOVERS LAMENT, A, Pultz, Dorothy Goodermote, Jul p 6

W

**WHAT MAKES A GREEN FLOWERED AFRICAN
VIOLET GREEN?**, Smith, Jeff, Dr., Jul p 43

Y

YOUR AVSA LIBRARY, Breden, Ralph, Mar p 11; Jul p 16

1992 INDEX OF AUTHORS

A

ALBRECHT, GEORGENE, A Family Portrait, Jan p 49; Mar p 21; May p 49; Jul p 21; Sep p 21; Nov p 41; Green with Envy, Mar p 10

ANDERSON, VAL, I Do It My Way, May p 55

ANGELICO, SAM, Helpful Hints for Raising Miniatures, Jul p 52

BARTHOLOMEW, PAULINE, A Partial Glossary of African Violet Terms Part II, Jan p 44

BECK GARY R., Disbudding for Show: Days to

B

- BIRGE, JANE**, Jane's Journal, Jan p 5; Mar p 5; May p 5; Jul p 5; Sep p 5; Nov p 5
- BOLLAR, CHARLES**, From the President's Desk, Jan p 3; Mar p 3; May p 3; Jul p 3; Sep p 3; Nov p 3
- BREDEN, RALPH**, Your Library, Mar p 11; Jul p 16; Rules and Regulations for Use of AVSA Library Materials, Jul p 49
- BRUCE, CAROL**, Growing Violets with Both Sides of the Brain, Jul p 39; Ode to Nolan Blansit, Nov p 32
- BUCK, MARLENE**, Boyce Edens Research Fund, Jan p 21; Mar p 42; May p 10; Jul p 32; Sep p 39; Nov p 32
- BURNS, MARIE**, African Violets Under Lights, Jan p 47
- BUTTRAM DAVID**, AVSA Commercials-A Closer Look (Joan's African Violets), Mar p 39; (The Violet House), May p 7; (Fischer Greenhouses), Nov p 13

C

- COVEL, MARIAN AND GEORGE**, The AVSA Spotlight Is On Viola Tucker, Sep p 6
- CRIST, MAGGI**, My Violets Are Suffering from CMS*, Sep p 38

F

- FOSTER, BILL**, Shows and Judges, Jan p 26; May p 26; Sep p 46; Aluminum Foil-less, Nov p 43
- FREDETTE, IRENE**, Creating ... with Fredette, Jan p 7; Mar p 23; May p 35; Jul p 13; Sep p 13; Nov p 26; Read Label Before "Feeding," May p 24

G

- GALL, MARY E.**, A Race with Tropical Rainbelt Deforestation, Jan p 20; In Friendship to Russia and the Ukraine, Sep p 44
- GOEKE, RUTH**, Commercial Division-1992 Columbus Convention, Jul p 18
- GREEN, BOB L.**, 1991 Cumulative Index, Jan p 67
- GREENBANK, ABIGAIL**, African Violets for Everyone!, Mar p 49
- GRIFFITH, DEBBIE**, Humility, Jan p 14; Friends of AVSA, May p 27; Nov p 21

H

- HOLTKAMP, REINHOLD, JR.**, America's Celebration of Discovery, Mar p 43
- HOOVER, DARRYL**, Show Talk, Mar p 19; May p 43; Jul p 23; Sep p 14; Nov p 22

I

- IVES, WENDY**, Comparison of Leaf Anthocyanins in Genus *Saintpaulia*, Mar p 54; Are the Leaf and Flower Anthocyanins Linked in African Violets?, Sep p 19

J

- JANTZEN, ANNE**, AVSA Building Fund, Jan p 19; Mar p 16; May p 6; Jul p 26; Sep p 26; Nov p 25
- JARRATT, MARGARET V.**, Ten Very Useful Tools, Jul p 53
- JOLLEY, DORIS ANN**, Growing African Violets with Wick Method and Natural Light, May p 52

K

- KEATING, IRIS**, Registration Report, Jan p 23; Mar p 29; May p 23; Jul p 30; Sep p 30; Nov p 44; 'Tis the Night Before Show Time, Mar p 18
- KISAMORE, CHISAKO**, The Japanese Technique for Growing African Violet Trailers, Nov p 51

L

- LANDGREN, ANNA JEAN**, Tally Time-1991, Mar p 26
- LAWRENCE, NANCY**, Newsline: AVSA Beaumont Office, Jan p 4; Mar p 4; May p 4; Jul p 4; Sep p 4; Nov p 4
- LAWSON, FLOYD**, Send Your Choices, Jan p 18; The AVSA Honor Roll of African Violets, Jul p 28; 1992 Best Varieties, Nov p 11
- LIPSON, NEIL D.**, A "Double" Dose of Thrills, Jul p 25
- LOMBARD, LYNN**, The 1992 Master List of African Violets, Nov Sup p A-1

M

- MAURUS, WALT**, Don't Believe a Word of It!, May p 58
- MCDONALD, GEORGE, DR.**, Happy Birthday Dear Violet!, Jul p 45
- MERRELL, IRENE**, AVSA Affiliates, Jan p 32; May p 22

N

NAYLOR, FLORENCE, mini-tidbits, Jan p 43; Mar p 17; May p 21; Jul p 34; Nov p 19

O

OWENS, LYNDALL, Affiliate 'appenings, Jan p 16

P

PALM DORIS THIRSK, Installation of Officers, May p 34

PITTMAN, J. R., Attn: Hybridizers, Mar p 34

PROMERSBERGER, BEV, The Death of the Supermarket Violet, Sep p 22

PRUTSMAN, LUCILLE, "Experience" — A Great Teacher!, May p 19

PULTZ, DOROTHY GOODERMOTE, A Violet Lovers Lament, Jul p 6

R

RAMSER, CHARLES D., Club Condition: A Cause for Leadership, May p 38

REXILIUS, JANE, Certificates Awarded, Jul p 16

RICHARDSON, DIANE, Take a Trip Back in Time, Jul p 29; Making Babies (or How to Put Down a Leaf!), Sep p 25; Mid-Atlantic to Hold 2nd Annual Convention, Sep p 29; Species "Sports," Sep p 27; There's a Lot to See and Do in Lancaster, PA, Sep p 32; Baltimore AVC and Svetlana, Nov p 54

RIEMER, JANET T., Maas Memorial Collection Awards, Sep p 24

ROBINSON, RALPH, Question Box, Sep p 28; Nov p 48

S

SANGER, BOB, Uses for All Those Extra Plants Are Limitless!, Jul p 52

SCHROEDER, MILDRED, Attention: Affiliates, Jan p 21

SKELTON, ELINOR, 1992 AVSA Master Judges Certified, Nov p 16

SLEDGE, CHARLES E., M.D., African Violet Chlorosis Related to Excess Soil Alkalinity, Mar p 50

SMITH, JAMES, Question Box, Jan p 29; Mar p 46; May p 29; Jul p 41; Sep p 28; Nov p 48

SMITH, JEFF, DR., Comparison of Leaf Anthocyanins in Genus *Saintpaulia*, Mar p 54; Chemical Analysis of the Flower Pigments in African Violets: Part IV, May p 32; What Makes a Green Flowered African Violet Green?, Jul p

43; Are the Leaf and Flower Anthocyanins Linked in African Violets?, Sep p 19; Effect of Chelated Iron on a Crown Variegated African Violet, Nov p 17

SMITH, JUDITH, AVS of Philadelphia at Flower Show, Sep p 27

STAHL, JULIA, Lancaster's Place in History, Nov p 20

STENGER, JOYCE, FORMing an Orderly Meeting, Sep p 48

STORK, KENT AND JOYCE, Beginners Column, Jan p 11; Mar p 7; May p 11; Jul p 7; Sep p 7; Nov p 7

SWITZER, MARY ANN, Brand Name Soil Mix Ingredients, Jul p 38; How To Build a Plant Stand, Nov p 30

T

TINARI, ANNE, Growing African Violets in Southern Africa by Joan Halford (A Book Review), Mar p 20; A Third Attempt to Obtain Postal Stamp Status for African Violet, Sep p 32; Gift Giving Made Easy!, Nov p 12

TINARI, PHILIP, Potting Mixture and the Growth of African Violets, Jul p 11

TROCHIANO, CHRIS, A Love Story, Nov p 32

U

ULANOFF, CLAIRE, Plant Parenthood, May p 47

W

WARREN, RUTH, AVSA Booster Fund, Jan p 6; Mar p 6; May p 18; Jul p 24; Sep p 6; Nov p 32

WASSON, LUCILE, Kermit's Christmas Party, Nov p 50

WELCHEL, LYNDIA C., Holtkamp Greenhouses to Award Rosettes, May p 10

WELLS, ESTHER EDWARDS, 1992 Columbus Convention/Show Awards, Jan p 41

WILKENING, KARTER GENE, S.O.S. - Save Our Species, Mar p 44

1992 INDEX OF COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS

ALWAYS PINK - (Khoe), Sep p 33

AUDREY BUCHANAN - (Pittman), Jul p 36

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION - (Tinari), Mar p

25
COLLEEN - (Granger Gardens), May p 48
COSMOS - (Volkmann Bros.), Nov p 40

DOROTHY PARKER - (Granger Gardens), Jan p 48
DON'S DELIGHT - (Wilson), Mar p 48

FLIRTATIOUS - (Wilson), Mar p 48

GALAXY - (Volkmann Bros.), Nov p 40
GRANDMA'S ZACH - (Nadeau), Jul p 33

HEAVENLY DAWN - (Blansit), Jan p 25
HORTENSE PITTMAN - (Russell), Jul p 36

IVORY-MAUVE SEEDLING 1439C - (Blansit), Mar p 45

JEANI - (Elkin), Jul p 40
JULIA FLADT - (Granger Gardens), May p 48

LITTLE DOLL - (Sorano), Sep p 33

MAGIC TRAIL - (Pittman), Sep p 40
MAJESTY - (Blansit), Mar p 45
MAVERICK'S FADED JEANS - (Smith), May p 25
MELODIE KIMI - (Sunnyside), Sep p 40

NATCHURLY NAWLINS - (Armstrong/Domiano), Nov-Cover
NESS' CRINKLE BLUE - (Ness), Nov p 37
NESS' ELFIN MAGIC - (Ness), Sep-Cover
NESS' FIREFLY - (Ness), Sep-Cover
NESS' FROSTY BELLE - (Ness), May p 29
NESS' MIDNIGHT FANTASY - (Ness), Nov p 37
NESS' MINI SOTA - (Ness), Sep-Cover
NESS' SIZZLIN' PINK - (Ness), Jan p 45

OCEAN EYES - (Burns), Jul-Cover
OPTIMARA HARLEQUIN - (Holtkamp), May-Cover
OPTIMARA LITTLE CRYSTAL - (Holtkamp), Sep p 33
OUTRAGE - (Boone), Mar-Cover

PEPPERMINT GIRL - (Pittman), Nov p 36

RED SUNSET STAR - (Tinari), Jan p 28
ROB'S COOKIE MONSTER - (Robinson), Mar p 28
ROB'S DANDY LION - (Robinson), Sep-Cover

ROB'S GAL VIKKI - (Robinson), Jul p 37
ROB'S HEEBIE JEEBIE - (Robinson), Sep p 36
ROB'S LUCKY STROKE - (Robinson), Mar p 28
ROB'S SWIZZLE STICK - (Robinson), Sep p 36
ROB'S TWINKLE TOES - (Robinson), Jul p 37

SAINTPAULIA VELUTINA, Nov p 33
SEEDLING FROM IVORY BREEDING - (Blansit), May p 45
SHERRY LOVE - (Elkin), Jul p 40
SNOWMAN TRAIL - (Pittman), Nov p 36
SPRING MEADOW - (Granger Gardens), Jan p 48

TEEN SWEETHEART - (Pittman), Sep p 37
THE ALPS - (Japanese), Jan-Cover

VAGABOND - (Pittman), Sep p 37

WEDDING PROMISE - (Arndt), May p 29
WINTER GOLD - (Kolb), Jan p 28

YELLOW BLEND SEEDLING - (Blansit), Jan p 25
YELLOW-RED SEEDLING 1393-B - (Blansit), May p 45

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3	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	1.80	3.30	7.50	13.50	57.50	
3-1/2	Wh or Gr	RT or SQ	2.10	3.75	8.50	15.50	67.50	
4	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	2.50	4.50	10.00	18.00	78.00	
4-1/2	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	2.70	5.00	11.00	20.00	88.00	
5	Wh or Gr	RS or RT	3.25	5.80	13.50	25.00	110.00	
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African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

March • April 1993

Volume 46

Number 2



Strictly Business — Your Business

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ARTICLES by Members & Columnists: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENT NOTICES: Send to Editor.

"Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists & Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates & copy info: Diane Richardson, 9207 Ravenwood Rd., Baltimore, MD 21237; ph. 410-686-4667.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan. issue - Oct. 15; Mar. issue - Dec. 15; May issue - Feb. 15; July issue - Apr. 15; Sept. issue - June 15; Nov. issue - Aug. 15. ONLY currently paid Commercial Members may advertise.

SHOW TALK (winners): Send to Darryl Hoover, 912 S. Highland Ave., Fullerton, CA 92632.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office.

FAILURE TO RECEIVE: Notify AVSA office in Beaumont.
QUESTION BOX: Jim Smith & Ralph Robinson, 489 Linwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL Number 6 - \$12.95 postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 — all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL Binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder.

MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - \$6.95.

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 1407 Calle Espana, San Dimas, CA 91773.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - \$25.00. Updates (when available) - \$25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members, only. Members renewing, receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Janet T. Riemer, 256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd., Pennington, NJ 08534.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research, or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Frank Tinari, 2325 Valley Road, Huntington Valley, PA 19006.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$6.00 ppd. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Varieties," The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

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POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704.

African Violet MAGAZINE

Vol. 46 No. 2

March • April 1993

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

ON THE COVER —TIGER, a golden "oidie" hybrid of Irene Fredette and Blue Ribbon winner, grown and shown by S. Holtzman of Cincinnati, OH, at the 1992 AVSA Convention/Show held in Columbus, Ohio.

Photo by T. A. Etter, Columbus, OH

Table of Contents

REGULAR FEATURES

3. From the President's Desk - Charles Bollard
4. Newline: AVSA Office - Nancy Lawrence
5. Jane's Journal - Jane Birge
6. Letters to the editor
6. AVSA Building Fund - Anne Jantzen
9. Beginners Column - Kent & Joyce Stork
12. Show Talk - Darryl Hoover
14. AVSA Booster Fund - Ruth Warren
15. A Family Portrait - Georgene Albrecht
17. AVSA Spotlight on Dr. Jeff Smith
28. Registration Report - Iris Keating
34. mini-tidbits - Florence Neaylor
38. Question Box - Jim Smith
39. Boyce Edens Research - Marlene Buck
41. Coming Events

PERTAINING TO VIOLETS

7. African Violet Stamp - Anne Tinari
14. Growing Conditions Vary - Peggy Payne
18. Photographing Violets - Carol Bruce
20. Growing with Aquarium Bulbs
- Sherry Jesberger
22. The Thrips Returned - Neil Lipson
23. I Wanna Be a Star! - Inna Saintpaulia

24. Culture Tip for Micros - Charlotte Eberhard
25. Know Your Fertilizers - An Overview
26. Tally Time 1992 - Anna Jean Landgren
32. Are the Newest Winners the Only Winners?
- Nancy Robitaille
48. Another Yellow Invader - Iown Antha
49. Repotting Miniatures - Marjorie Armstrong

CONVENTION

7. Future Convention Dates
29. Lancaster Beckons - Julia Stahl
29. Shop til you drop - Diane Richardson
30. Maximizing Your Convention Dollar
- David Buttram
35. National Violet Exhibition - Charles Laws
35. 1993 Convention Update
35. Needed - Jim Whitaker
35. Hybridizers Please Note - J. R. Pittman

SOCIETY BUSINESS

6. Changes to Judges List

MISCELLANEOUS

8. In Memory
50. AVM Advertising Rates

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a nonprofit organization



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Tally Time

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Index of Advertisers ...

A

- 59. Acree Creations
- 53. African Queen
- 63. African Violets & More
- 51. African Violet Shop
- 63. African Violets by Grace
- 62. Al's Violets
- 62. A-MI Violettes
- 58. American Gloxinia
and Gesneriad Society
- 58. American Orchid Society
- 54. AV Enterprises Press
- 59. AVS of Canada

B

- 51. Big Sky Violets

C

- 57. Cape Cod Violetry
- 54. Country Road Violets
- 53. The Cryptanthus Society

E

- 58. The Ernst Nursery

F

- 61. Florals of Fredericks

G

- 61. Granger Gardens

H

- 51. Hortense's African Violets
- 60. HousePlant Magazine

I

- 52. Indoor Gardening Supplies
- 53. Innis Violets

J

- 53. JF Designs
- 63. JF Industries
- 63. JoS Violets

L

- 51. Les Violettes Natalia

- 63. Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

M

- 51. Midland Violets
- 56. Mighty Minis

P

- 52. Patches and Pots
- 59. Plant Collectibles
- 62. Planters International
- 61. Pleasant Hill African
Violets
- 53. Porcelain Jewelry

R

- 51. Rice's Hybrid Violets
- 64. Rob's Mini-o-lets

S

- 62. Schultz
- 54. Shirley's House of Violets
- 63. Sonja's Violets
- 51. Spirit North

T

- 59. Teas Nursery
- 62. Travis' Violets
Back Cover
- Tinari Greenhouses

V

- 56. Verilux
- 62. Violet Creations
- 55. The Violet Express
Inside Back Cover
- The Violet House
- 59. Violets by Appointment
- 58. The Violet Showcase
- 63. Violets Plus
- 51. Volkmann Brothers

Z

- 51. Zaca Vista Nursery
- 52. Zaca Vista Nursery

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear friends and fellow members,

As this will be my final correspondence to you as your president, I wish to thank all of you for the honor and privilege of serving you and AVSA.

With the outstanding executive committee you have selected for the next term of offices, I know that AVSA will proceed steadily forward to make this the finest organization of its kind.

With my 12 years on the board I have seen many changes for the betterment of AVSA — mostly good — some, not so good. We are all constantly searching for better ways to improve AVSA through teaching, judging of shows and making new show requirements. For instance, double potting is now acceptable and foil wrapping of pots is no longer required.

Because of constant changes in new plant introductions, I am sure that AVSA will have more situations to be handled in the future. For instance there is the new yellow violet. What of its offspring? What section of the show will they be in? Colors and variations of? What?

The executive committee and board members have made great strides in accomplishing many tasks; and the introduction of a registered parliamentarian to keep the meetings on the proper course of action, has helped a great deal.

I feel that AVSA members should take more interest in their organization by recommending competent people to the attention of the president, committee chairs, and mostly, to the nominating committee, for positions on the executive committee. These positions are only for a one-year appointment, except for treasurer, secretary and directors.

I would like to thank you once again for the opportunity I have had to serve as your president of AVSA. See you at the Lancaster, Pennsylvania AVSA Convention in April.

God Bless,

A. Charles Bollar
AVSA President

NEWSLINE:

AVSA Beaumont Office ...

NANCY LAWRENCE
AVSA Office Manager

MVL #6

We would like to thank all of our members for their patience in waiting to receive their orders for the Master Variety List #6. According to our records, all of the back orders have now been filled and shipped. We sincerely regret that you had to wait so long, but we want you to know that we shipped your orders out immediately after receiving the books in this office.

Unfortunately, we did not receive our entire order at one time; therefore, we filled the orders in the date order in which we received them and when we received the rest of the books, we filled the remaining orders.

MVL BINDERS:

The MVL #6 and the Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges, will both fit in **ONE** of the MVL binders, which we stock in this office. We would also like to remind you that they will also fit in any regular (8-1/2 x 11) binder which can be purchased in most stores that carry office supplies.

AVSA CONVENTION LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA (April 19 - 24, 1993)

We realize that not all of our members can attend AVSA conventions, but we encourage everyone, especially our NEW members who have never seen one to go if you can.

WORKSHOPS: This year, we will have workshops on:

Pests, Gesneriads, Miniatures, How to Grow Show Plants, and Trailers and a "how to" for Designs.

Everyone can benefit from the experts who conduct these workshops, and especially new growers.

SHOW ROOM: I'll never forget the first time, I walked into an AVSA Convention show room — it was in Los Angeles in 1985; I think I walked around, with my mouth open in disbelief, for the rest of the day.

There are no words to describe the magnificence of the plants that are put on display at an AVSA Convention — you just have to see them for yourself to believe it.

AVSA will have a sales table at the convention, where you can purchase back issues, the new MVL, binders, emblems and many other items that we stock in this office; so take the time to visit it, you may find something you need.

I will miss seeing all of you this year at convention, but I know that you will have an exciting and informative experience. Enjoy!

NEW JUDGES PINS AND AFRICAN VIOLET T-SHIRTS MAKE DEBUT AT LANCASTER CONVENTION

Attractive, newly designed Judges Pins will be offered by our Ways and Means Chairman, Mary A. Boland. We think you'll love it.

A T-Shirt, imprinted with a stunning display of African violets on it will also be offered by Ways and Means for AVSA. There is a limited supply, so be sure to get yours early.

Jane's Journal

Jane Birge, Editor

The spring shows are beginning to bloom (and, hopefully, all of your African violets), and I wish all you the very best.

I'm sure it is no easy task to put together a show and have everything run smoothly. I can't even imagine what organization it must take to host a national convention.

The list of coming events is tremendous, in this issue, and all of you should look it over and pick out a few shows in your area that you can attend. Everyone in AVSA will benefit, just by you showing support by attending the affiliate shows.

Back issues of the AVM are being offered by **Mrs. Robert James**, 344 Blue Bird Trail, Estill Springs, Tennessee 37330. She has been an AVSA member for almost 30 years, but gave up most of her activity a year ago.

She has copies of the magazine from Vol. 18 - No. 1 (1964) through Vol. 44 - No. 5 (1991) with the exception of Vol. 31 - No. 1 (1978) and Vol. 44 - No. 5 (1991). Anyone willing to pay the UPS charges can have them. What a great offer! They shouldn't last long, so if you are interested, please contact her right away.

This column seems to be the "last hope" for **Don Goodwin**, 85 Judson St., Thomaston, CT 06787, who is looking for the plant, 'Benjamin,' #4547. It was

registered in 1981 by E. Weisner of Texas. It is a standard, burgundy double with dark ruffled foliage. He adds, "Can you guess what my grandson's name is?" If anyone has 'Benjamin,' he will accept collect calls at 203-283-5311. He also wrote a very kind note about the AVM, and said to put him down as liking the new size of the magazine. (Personal note - No, Don, I don't have a flag from Connecticut, and I need one REAL bad.)

Speaking of flags ... **Carlos Beca** of Alberta, Canada knows how to promote his province! Not only did he send his beautiful blue flag, but also all kinds of information on the Arms of the Province of Alberta, that show the mountains, foothills, prairies, and wheat fields of the flag, symbolizing the province's variety of landscapes. Carlos also writes he likes the new size of the AVM.

Another generous Canadian cousin, **Ina Beaver**, of the First Halifax African Violet Society has sent the elegant flag of the Nova Scotia Province AND the flag of Canada. (I love those packages when I get two for one!)

Thank you Ina, for the flags and all of the kind words. Rest assured, your gifts are being proudly display in the AVSA Office.

One of the most striking state flags, that of New Mexico, has

been sent to us from **Agatha Garrison** of Estancia, New Mexico. Thank you Agatha, it is deeply appreciated. We are displaying it proudly.

This magazine received some delightful recognition recently, when the magazine trade publication, **Magazine Week**, featured the AVM in their "Out There" column that focuses on specialty magazines.

That beautiful cover on the January/February 1993 issue was the one they chose, and already, they have had inquiries on how to receive information about our magazine.

I hope you all can attend the 47th Annual AVSA Convention and Show, this April, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The theme for the convention is, "You've Got A Friend In Pennsylvania," but, actually, I think you will find and make *lots* of friends in that beautiful state. This is one convention not to be missed.

The most exciting news around here in a long time, in my opinion, is the recent confirmation of the African violet postage stamp. Be sure and read **Anne Tinari's** news release on page 7 of this issue. To be at the unveiling, is another great reason to attend the convention in Lancaster. We will give more information in a future issue on the First Day of Issue. This is a great honor for all of us.

Elvis, move over!



Letters to
the Editor

AVSA Building Fund

ANNE JANTZEN, *Chairman*
2725 Katrina Way
Mountain View, CA 94040

Dear editor:

I have attended and enjoyed several AVSA conventions, in addition to serving as show chair for the national convention in Santa Clara, CA, in 1991.

I am not willing to attend, however, our convention in Denver, May 1994, due to the overturning of the human rights law by the voters of Colorado.

I join many others in the boycott of visiting and spending money in a state that will not respect and protect all people. I urge other members of AVSA to contact the president and board of directors to express their feelings that our organization should not ignore this travesty, but in response cancel our convention unless the state overturns this prejudicial initiative.

Sincerely,
Gary R. Beck
San Francisco, CA

MASTER VARIETY LIST #6 NOW AVAILABLE

\$12.95 postpaid.

*Describes all varieties
registered to Dec. 31, 1992
— all recognized species
and non-registered cultivars
introduced from July 1983
to Dec. 1992.*
Contact Beaumont
office.

HOW MANY TIMES
DO YOU GET
A SECOND CHANCE?

THIS IS YOUR SECOND CHANCE



**The Building Fund Pin
Is Coming
To Lancaster**

Contributions from Oct. 1 - 31, 1992
October, 1992
Don L. Thornburg, CA\$15.00
The Long Island AVS, NY
in memory of Gert Buckley55.00
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in memory of Irene Reinhold,
faithful member 10.00
Frances Young, TX
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from Albuquerque AVC, NM25.00
Hortense Pittman
in lieu of payment
for project plants
for Magic Knight AVS48.00

Central Jersey AVS
in memory of Helen Ryan,
Immediate Past President
and beloved member 25.00
Total for the month - \$248.00
TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS -
\$82,608.00

Contributions from Nov. 1 - 30, 1992
November, 1992
Mrs. Myrtle H. Perkins, MA
in memory of her mother,
Abby H. Polley\$50.00
Don L. Thornburg, CA 15.00
Green Country
AV Study Club, OK 50.00
Thimble Island AVS, CN
in memory of Jean Dolan 50.00
Desert Sun AVS, AZ
in memory of May D. Cook 25.00
Juanita R. Glover, NC 15.00
Total for the month - \$205.00
TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS -
\$82,813.00

Additions/Changes To Judges List in September/October 1992AVM

Add Pat Addison, Student Judge, 1917 Waldron Dr., Anchorage, AK 99507.

Add Col. James L. Britton, Senior Judge, 3906 SW Harbor Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64082.

Change status of Darryl Hoover, 912 S. Highland Ave., Apt. C, Fullerton, CA 92632, from Student Judge to Advanced Judge.

African Violet Stamp To Be Unveiled At Lancaster Convention

ANNE TINARI
MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION
CHAIRMAN

An African violet postage stamp has been approved by the United States Postmaster General Marvin Runyon and will be issued in 1993.

The new 29¢ African violet stamp will be unveiled at the 47th Annual AVSA Convention

on April 24, 1993, at the banquet to be held at the Lancaster Host Golf Resort and Convention Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

This is indeed a great honor for our society and all its members. It has been a fervent hope

of our society, for many years, to have an African violet stamp issued.

Philatelists and violet enthusiasts alike are looking forward with anticipation to the First Day of Issue which will be announced at a later date.

Future AVSA Convention Sites and Dates

Lancaster, Pennsylvania —

April 19 - 24, 1993

Denver, Colorado —

May 23 - 28, 1994

St. Louis, Missouri —

May 22 - 27, 1995

Atlanta, Georgia —

May 23 - 27, 1996

*Support AVSA
by giving
a gift membership
today!*



CYNDE LERE of Beloit, WI, is shown holding her Best in Show plant, *Ness' Twinkle Pink*. Cynde is a novice grower, this being only her second AVSA show, but she exhibited 45 plants and one design, all of which were blue ribbon winners. Besides winning Best in Show, Cynde also won Second Best in Show, Best AVSA Collection, Best Standard, Best Miniature, Best Semiminiature, Best Standard Trailer, Best Miniature/Semiminiature Trailer, Best Miniature Gesneriad, Best Variegated, Best Optimara or Rhapsodie, Sweepstakes in Horticulture, and 21 Best in Class awards. Every plant except Best Standard Gesneriad on the head table belonged to Cynde. She was exhibiting at the Wisconsin Council of African Violet Clubs annual show.

In Memory

CRYSTAL "CHRIS"

HUEBSCHER — AVSA Judge and Teacher, Chris Huebscher of Florida, died November 12, 1992. Chris organized the first violet club in Bay County, Florida, and also was affiliated with the Dixie AVS, having been a past president. A floral designer and cover designer, she also wrote many articles for AVSA and Dixie. Her arrangement design was on the cover the June 1966 AVM. She was an extremely enthusiastic violet grower and will be missed deeply.

*Her sister, Lucile Wasson
Miracle Strip AVS
Panama City, FL*

A TRIBUTE TO HUGH EYERDOM

It seems that I have always known Hugh Eyerdom. I met him in 1959. I was living in Pittsburgh, PA, at that time and was a member of the Pittsburgh AVS. I had heard of Granger Gardens through this group and in fact, was growing some of their hybrids. I knew that some of our members made trips to Granger Gardens occasionally, so I volunteered to be the driver. After securing a sitter for my son, I filled the car with some of the older woman from our club, who had been to Granger Gardens before and knew the way. I could hardly wait to see the violets. I knew that I had a treat

in store. We were graciously received by Grace and Hugh Eyerdom. My first impression of him was that of a man who was very knowledgeable about violets, as well as kind and gentle in demeanor. His knowledge of hybridizing was extensive.

I recall an article written by him and published in the September, 1966 issue of the *African Violet Magazine*, "What is an F2 Violet?" It was a very scholarly treatise and could have been written by a college professor. Granger Gardens also received the Bronze Medal for horticultural achievement in 1966 given by the African Violet Society of America at the AVSA convention in Milwaukee.

In 1970, Granger Gardens received the President's Award to encourage selective hybridization showing distinct color break or outstanding color combination with 'Peppermint,' which also received the Best New Introduction Award. That was a banner year for Hugh Eyerdom and Granger Gardens, as they received the silver trophy for Best Commercial Display Table.

In 1971, Grace and Hugh Eyerdom were awarded a special citation by the Garden Clubs of Ohio, Inc., for outstanding horticultural contributions in the hybridization of African violets and for their dedication and devotion to so many horticultural projects.

You cannot write an article about Hugh Eyerdom without including Grace Eyerdom. They were a devoted team and equally involved in their business of developing and growing African violets.

In 1973, Grace and Hugh

turned over the management of Granger Gardens to their son Dale and another Grace, Dale's wife. Hugh continued with the hybridization of African violets and did so until his death.

The story of his hybrid, 'Emily Savage,' is one that is very dear to my heart, and to me, epitomizes the kindness and thoughtfulness of Hugh Eyerdom. I went on a bus trip in 1982 to Granger Gardens with the Columbus African Violet Society. Hugh had stated that he would give us a short program on African violets as a part of our visit. When we had assembled in the middle greenhouse for the program, he had a beautiful African violet with lavender-blue double blossoms, fringed with delicate white and green edges in his hand. He stated that this new cultivar would be named 'Emilie Savage,' and handed it to me. I felt tears coming into my eyes and I saw that his were misty, too. It was one of those very special days in my life. I recognized the plant as a seedling I had purchased from them some time ago on the discarded seedling bench. After growing it, I thought it had great potential and others should have the opportunity of having it. The next time I made a trip to Granger Gardens, I took it with me and showed it to Dale Eyerdom. He couldn't believe they had let it slip away. I presented it to him to keep for propagation.

I shall miss Hugh Eyerdom, even as I miss Dale, and shall always remember him as a man of vision, dignity and kindness. It is good to know that another Eyerdom, Jim, is now keeping alive this tradition.

Emilie Savage

BEGINNERS COLUMN

KENT & JOYCE STORK
2501 East 23rd Avenue
Fremont, Nebraska 68025



How to KILL an African Violet

Maybe the world doesn't need to know exactly how one goes about killing an African violet. Actually it isn't our goal that anyone learn how to kill them better! But maybe, if the beginning grower understands exactly what will kill violets, it will be easier to keep them alive.

THE TWO BEST WAYS TO KILL THEM

Every green plant has two basic needs to stay alive — light and water. Deny your violets any light or any water and they will most assuredly die! But in many cases it is not that the plants were denied these two basic requirements, but were given them erratically or too generously.

In order to live and produce energy, violets need about 12 hours of good bright light every day. If they are to bloom, this bright light is absolutely essential. Unfortunately, the bright light can also provide deadly heat, particularly with window-grown violets. Heat above 90° F can significantly damage older leaves in a period of a few hours. Heat-damaged leaves look soggy or water-filled and limp. This can happen quickly when plants are sitting in direct sunlight on

hot days.

Many violets are subjected to lower light than they need, but at least this is not fatal. The plants become stretchy, unsightly, and rarely bloom, but usually they survive in hopes that someday their owner will do something to improve the light. Once the light situation has been corrected, the plants will begin to grow more compactly and to bloom.

Water is a violet's best friend and worst enemy all at the same time. We killed our first violet with too much water, and probably 90% of you have done the same. The good news is, we learned from our mistake!

Violets need soil, water and air around their roots. When there is too much water, no air can get in. This invites a fungus commonly known as crown rot to swim in (that's the only way it can get there). Crown rot will kill a violet every time. It most commonly occurs when plants are standing in water-logged soil, especially when the violets are potted in heavy soils which absorb too much water. Light porous soils can add necessary air and protect roots.

Erratic watering can also cause roots to shrivel first from

dryness, then be overwhelmed with water when the owner discovers the problem. Withered roots are not able to absorb water as do healthy roots. It is better to water lightly when a violet has gotten really dry. This allows the roots to plump up or regenerate. A more thorough watering 24 hours later will then restore limp foliage. Old leaves rarely survive severe droughts, so it should be expected that the plant may lose a row or two of outside leaves. The center is more capable of recovering because of its youth.

VIOLENCE WORKS TOO

African violence! Yes, injuries of a violent nature may kill a violet. Dropping the plant on its top, bouncing balls across the plant, letting the cat play on the violet shelf ... these things can kill your violets. Fortunately, our violets don't see much of this.

Sometimes the damage doesn't show at first. It is easy to take a quick look at a plant after an "earth-shaking" experience and think it is fine. But even small bruises to plant tissue may eventually reveal themselves as bigger damage, especially as the leaves age. Because

the crown of the plant is usually protected by the other leaves, it is likely to survive; however, a direct hit to the crown may well be fatal. When injuries to outer leaves occur, those leaves should be removed as quickly as the damage becomes evident. Damaged leaves may invite fungal diseases to come visiting.

TRY GIVING IT A DEADLY DISEASE

We've already talked about inviting a fungus to make its home in your violet. Fungus is a particularly good assassin of violets because of the humidity that violets love. Fungi will thrive whenever the air is very humid and warm, and especially when moisture condenses on surfaces as the temperature drops. They don't do well in the presence of moving air, which tends to prevent condensation. Some, like crown rot, have a sort of water paddle to propel them through standing water.

Mildew, which is white and powdery, will look like a minor criminal when it first begins growing as a tiny spot on a leaf or blossom. Early treatment with spray Lysol misted over the plant may stop it. But it can be insidious if the air is not kept moving. Powdery mildew will kill blossoms by the handful and plants, too, if it is not stopped.

Botrytis is a fungus which seems to be able to enter the plant most easily through open wounds in the plant foliage or stem. Dead or dying leaves, stubs of leaves, and dirty tools all provide botrytis a route to follow into the plant. It, too, is skilled in killing African violets.

Stunt, another fungal disease,

is a little less common. It will cause center leaves to begin growing very small while older leaves gradually die. There is no apparent cure for it, and it is efficient in traveling through the air and through physical contact with other plants. If this condition is present, all affected plants need to be disposed of rapidly — mercy killing.

Giving plants plenty of space will not only improve air circulation to prevent fungus from thriving, it will also allow violets to grow prettier.

INSECT FRIENDS ARE NOT GOOD COMPANY

The insects that are attracted to violets are rarely there for the good company. Insects come for the food that the plant can provide. Some of them enjoy the foliage, some prefer the pollen, and some like the roots. When one insect has hungry babies, the plants will begin to suffer all that much more.

Chewing pests, like cockroaches, actually bite and chew bits of the plant. Of course, there are no cockroaches in your home, so don't worry about them, unless of course you notice chunks of plant material eaten away.

A more common chewing "pest" is thrips which chew pollen sacs open in the center of the flower. These can be deadly if they totally overrun the collection, because thrips can go beyond eating pollen to also eating foliage, especially when there are high populations. Controlling small infestations with spray insecticides is wise.

Sucking pests, like cyclamen mite or foliar mealy bug, suck juices out of the plant. The

cyclamen mite will feed only on very tender plant tissue, usually in the crown of the plant or on newly formed blossom stems. The resulting growth will be deformed, usually tight or twisted and grayish in appearance. These pests are not visible to the naked eye, and their continued presence in a violet collection will generally cause the owner to dispose of these unhealthy plants until nothing is left. Chemical treatment of the infested plants will eliminate the mites, but plants will need time to grow back into a more attractive appearance.

Foliar mealy bug is another nasty companion because it protects itself very effectively while it feeds. Little white web-like sacs protect the insects from aerosol sprays. Systemic insecticides work gradually, but are best in combination with swabbing the webs away with alcohol and aerosol sprays to catch exposed bugs. If you prefer your violets alive, watch all living plants for this insect, and keep the violets far away from him.

One sucking pest that prefers roots is the soil mealy bug. They are visible but small, white, and usually wiggle a bit when disturbed. Over a period of time, soil mealy bugs may destroy most of the plant's root system, causing leaves on the plant to develop a dull yellowish appearance. As the damage advances, outside leaves wilt and die row by row until the entire plant is gone. Again, it is possible to control this pest with chemical treatment.

TRY COOKING OR FREEZING

Plant researchers are just

beginning to understand the complex effects that temperatures have on plants. African violets are known to tolerate temperatures between 40 and 100 °F, but they really thrive between 70 and 75 °F. Cold temperatures significantly slow growth, damage roots, and impede the absorption of water and food. When exposed to cold temperatures below 55 for more than a day or so, expect damage to older outside leaves. Long term exposure will often damage even the crown, which is irreversible.

Heat damage occurs above about 80° F, but healthy plants may be able to tolerate heat up to 100 for very brief periods, particularly if the plants have been kept on the dry side. The older the leaf, the less resilient it will be to hot and expanding water molecules within the leaf cells. When the water expands to the point that the cell is broken open, there is permanent damage. Long-term exposure to warm conditions tends to promote soft rapid growth. Long exposure to extreme heat will kill not only outside leaves, but the crown as well.

SUICIDE

It isn't common for violets to get so depressed due to abuse or maltreatment that they wish to die. Sometimes however, violets do seem to do something very like suicide because of genetic abnormalities. For example, a center crown may suddenly abort or stop sending in new growth, but with no new leaves in the center, there is no future for the plant. In these cases, suicide prevention is accomplished by taking leaf

cuttings while existing leaves are youthful enough to be productive. The offspring may show the same tendency, so a watchful eye is necessary.

POLLUTION DESTRUCTION

Violets are rather susceptible to certain pollutants in air and water. They rarely die quickly, but if conditions aren't improved, they may die.

Natural gas is commonly used in and around many growing areas. If there should be even a very tiny leak, the violets may begin to develop tight centers almost as if they had been infested with mites. These centers will maintain a greenish color, whereas tight centers due to a mite infestation usually have a grayish look. Your plants could also have tight centers that are caused by excessive light. If you believe that neither mites, nor excessive light is the culprit, it may be very wise to ask the gas company to investigate. Be persistent; sometimes their equipment is not as sensitive as your plants.

Excessive amounts of good minerals and elements in the air and water can also cause death. Salt is a particularly nasty enemy because it draws water away from the cells. Salt build up on the top edge of clay pots may damage or kill leaves, but salt build up on the surface of the soil can kill the main stem. Periodically watering from the top of the soil will wash the salts down and away from danger. Salty water (including softened water) is obviously a bad idea, unless you really do want to kill the plants. Excess fertilizer can result in salt overdoses, too.

ANNOYINGLY POOR HORTICULTURE

Some horticultural habits are just annoying to our violets but they won't usually kill them. Insufficient light or fertilizer, temperature fluctuations, dust on the leaves, or infrequent repotting will all cause the plants to perform less well than they could. This is good news, because sometimes even good growers have to worry about other problems for awhile. African violets are reasonably willing to wait through a crisis until their growers can get back to them. Violets show an amazing ability to renew themselves when quality conditions are restored. It's a rare violet that can't be saved — barring one of the above assassination techniques.

Actually, for most violet growers who have mastered the basic water and light, African violets can be tough to kill. Just ask their friends and neighbors who keep getting the overflow, or the spouse who is worried about losing his or her living space to another light shelf. And if, in spite of yourself, you do kill another violet, remember that once you have determined why it died, you can protect the others.

That's how we all learned!

Remember the Boyce Edens Research Fund

Send contributions to:

Marlene Buck
P. O. Box 38
Oreland, PA 19075

SHOW TALK

DARRYL HOOVER
912 S. Highland Ave., Apt. C
Fullerton, CA 92632

To ensure each exhibitor and exhibit receives the recognition they deserve, please either print or type your results on the reporting form. Once you've completed the Show Talk report, please double check your spelling. I can check hybrids through the MVL; however, individual names require me to contact the particular affiliates show chair. This may delay the publishing of your show results.

Please include a self-addressed stamped post card with your report. This will allow me to acknowledge receipt of your report and allows me to inquire with the affiliate should the need arise.

FORMAT CHANGE:

Due to an increase in the number of Show Talk reports received for publication and the addition of the AVSA Mini/Semi Collections, we have found it necessary to make some format changes. We have deleted some items and have added some others. It was our goal to continue to recognize the achievements of individuals and affiliates, but at the same time reduce the amount of space required to publish these results.

SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN VIOLET SOCIETY, MD - Winners: Best AVSA Collection, *Aca's Merry Mary*

(sm), *Wee Hummer* (sm), *Rob's Quixotic Lad* (sm), Second Best in Show, *Think Twice* (m), Best Miniature, *Think Twice*, Best Semi, *Aca's Merry Mary*, Sweepstakes (horticulture), **Diane Richardson**. Second Best AVSA Collection, *Precious Pink* (sm), *Snuggles* (sm), *Rob's Macho Devil* (sm), **John Nabors**. Best in Show, *Harbor Blue*, **Diane Good**. Best Design, "Coma's Night Lights," **Joyce Stenger**. Best Trailer, *Fancy Trail*, **Dena Swope** (Novice). Best Gesneriad, *Alsobia dianthiflora*, **Ardrea Burrell**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Lois Staley** (Novice).

PITTSBURGH VIOLET SOCIETY, PA - Winners: Best AVSA Collection, *Tomahawk*, *Dorothy Parker*, *Jean-Pierre Croteau*, Best in Show, *Tomahawk*, Second Best in Show, *Nortex's Starlet Haven*, Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Daryl James**. Second Best AVSA Collection, *Rob's Fiddle Faddle* (sm), *Party Lace* (sm), *Irish Flirt* (sm), Best Semi, *Little Pro*, **Craig James**. Best Design, "Grapes of Wrath," Best Miniature, *Optimara Little Crystal*, Sweepstakes (Design), **Georgene Albrecht**. Best Trailer, *Snowy Trail*, Best Gesneriad, *Streptocarpus 'Marna'*, **Linda Mangold**.

SWEET WATER AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Collection, *Rob's Macho Devil* (sm), *Hector* (sm), *Rob's Almost Sinful* (sm), Best in Show, *Grape Slush*, Second Best in Show, *Rob's Almost Sinful* (sm), Best Trailer, *Adeara*, Best Miniature, *Rob's Little Josephine*, Best Semi, *Rob's Almost Sinful*, Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Carolyn Klein**. Second Best AVSA Collection, *Precious Pink* (sm), *Rob's*

Denim Demon (sm), *Little Pro* (sm), **Eleanor Hull**. Best Design, "Rush Hour," **Denise Monteleone**. Best Gesneriad, *Stunningta 'Cherry Dots'*, **Mildred Kiernan**.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS - Winners: Best AVSA Collection, *Tipped Honey* (sm), *Rob's Fiddle Faddle* (sm), *Rob's Silver Spook* (sm), Best in Show, *Ness' Twinkle Pink* (sm), Second Best in Show, *Shimmering Trail*, Best Trailer, *Shimmering Trail*, Best Miniature, *Rob's Romancer*, Best Semi, *Ness' Twinkle Pink*, Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Cynde Lere** (Novice). Best Design, "Cream Colored Ponies," Sweepstakes (Design), **Terri Torbeck**. Best Gesneriad, *Episcia 'Kee Wee'*, **Mae Mueller**.

CAPITAL CITY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Collection, *Rambler Lace* (tr), *Sweet Amy Sue* (tr), *Patt's Cameo* (tr), Best Trailer, *Wood Trail*, Best Miniature, *Happy Tears*, Best Semi, *Happy Teen*, Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Barbara Elkin**. Second Best AVSA Collection, *Wrangler's Green Pastures*, *Magnolia*, *Emilie Savage*, Best in Show, *Pink Lady*, Second Best in Show, *Wrangler's Savage Beauty*, **Della Carpenter**. Best Design, "Enchanted Castle," **Mae Mendes**. Best Gesneriad, *Aeschynanthus obconicus*, **Bernard Mugglestone**.

TWIN CITIES AVS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Collection, *Rob's Fiddle Faddle* (sm), *Rob's Silver Spook* (sm), *Snuggles* (sm), Best in Show, *Rob's Fiddle Faddle* (sm), Second Best in Show, *S. difficilis*, Best Semi, *Rob's Fiddle Faddle*, Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Martha Compton**. Best Design, "Sword of Stone," Sweepstakes (Design), *Ruth Tiedeman Memorial Award*, **Val Anderson**. Best Trailer, *Milky Way Trail*, Best Gesneriad, *Gasteranthus atratus*, **Libby Watkins**.

BLUFF CITY AVC, TN - Winners: Best in Show, *Ness' Sizzlin' Pink*, Best Standard, *Ness' Sizzlin' Pink*, Best Semi, *Sassy Shirley*, Best

Trailer, *Murphy's Law*, Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Mary Loewer**. Best Gesneriad, *Episcia 'Moonlight Valley'*, **George McDonald**. Best Miniature, *Petite Jewel*, **Katherine Steele**.

AV COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA — Winners: Best AVSA Collection, *Precious Pink (sm)*, **Pat Champagne (sm)**, *Little Bountiful (sm)*, Best Semi, **Pat Champagne**, **Darryl Hoover**. Best in Show, *Angel Fire*, **Ginni McCann**. Best Design, "Take My Picture," Sweepstakes (Design), **Ed Hoefer**. Best Trailer, *Cherokee Trail*, Best Gesneriad, *Nematanthus 'Butterscotch'*, **Hans Inpijn**. Best Miniature, *Optimara Little Amethyst*, **Faye Shirley**. Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Dale Martens**.

AVC OF GREATER ATLANTA, GA — Winners: Best AVSA Collection, *Apache Feathers*, **Lady Baltimore**, *Georgia Lover*, Best in Show, *Makin' Romance*, Best Semi, *Little Pro*, Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Dale Lanhardt**. Second Best AVSA Collection, *Red Ferrari*, *Cajun Heritage*, *Coral Glo*, Second Best in Show, *Peach Puff*, **Lois Duvall**. Best Design, "Georgia - The Peach State," Sweepstakes (Design), **Laura Walker**. Best Trailer, *Sundown Trail*, **Susan Bradley**. Best Gesneriad, *Episcia 'Kee Wee'*, **Kathy Spissman**.

DELTA GESNERIAD AND AVS, CA — Winners: Best AVSA Collection, *Midnight Radiation*, *Starshine*, **Michaela**, Best in Show, *Midnight Radiation*, Second Best in Show, *May Apple*, Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Canuto Gamulao, Jr.** Second Best AVSA Collection, *Rob's Sticky Wicket (tr)*, *Ramblin' Silver (tr)*, *Snowy Trail (tr)*, Best Trailer, *Rob's Sticky Wicket*, Sweepstakes (Design), **Barbara Elkin**. Best Design, "Call of the Wild," **Jean Stokes**. Best Miniature, *Petite Jewel*, Best Semi, *Precious Pink*, **Doris Weaver**. Best Gesneriad, *Smithacodonta cinnabrina*, **Jeani Hatfield**.

MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL — Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection, *Phantom Flash*, *Kathe Denise*, *Tomahawk*, Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection, *Irish Flirt*, *Ness' Sno Fun*, *Sassy Shirley*, Best in Show, *Windy Day*, **Kent Stork**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection, *Optimara Little Apache*, *Sassy Shirley*, *Sugar Bear Blues*, Second Best in Show, *Rob's Sticky Wicket*, Best Trailer, *Rob's Sticky Wicket*, Best Semi, *Sassy Shirley*, **Arda Miller**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection, *Bertha*, *Lela Marie*, *Mary Craig*, **Linda Bjorkman**. Best Design, "Kitchen Window," **Jackie Jones**. Best Miniature, *Rob's-Jee-Jin*, **Ruby Cox**. Best Gesneriad, *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, **Linda Golubski**. Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Pat Richardson**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Rita Linkswiler**.

THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA — Winners: Best AVSA Collection, *Favorite Child*, *Fredette's Moonflower*, *Ode To Beauty*, Best in Show, *Fredette's Moonflower*, Second Best in Show, *Ode To Beauty*, Best Trailer, *Beacon Trail*, Best Miniature, *Petite Jewel*, Best Semi, *Pat Champagne*, Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Carroll Gealy**. Second Best AVSA Collection, *Nortex's Snowkist Haven*, *Tiger*, *Swiftly Thriller*, **Arlene Pappas**. Best Design, "The Get Away," Best Gesneriad, *Episcia 'Kee Wee'*, Sweepstakes (Design), **Charline Sims**.

MID-AMERICA AVS — Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection, *Devil-May-Care*, *Kumiko*, *Kathe Denise*, Second Best in Show, *Optimara Paris*, Best Trailer, *Honey-suckle Rose*, Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection, *Precious Pink*, *Rob's Little Butterfly*, *Definitely Darryl*, **Sue Hill**. Best in Show, *Ness' Sno Fun*, Best Semi, *Ness' Sno Fun*, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection, *Shutterbug*, *Little Pro*, *Ness' Sno Fun*, Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Pat Richards**.

Best Design, "Celebrate the Day," Best Gesneriad, *Sinningia 'Red Robin'*, **Esther Wells**. Best Miniature, *Trity Moon Goddess*, **Grace McCurnin**.

LONE STAR AVC, TX — Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection (Amateur), *Wee Hummer*, *Ness' Sno Fun*, *Ness' Red Flash*, Best Design, "The Ol' Swimm'n' Hole," Best Trailer, *Darling Blue Trail*, **Dolores Gibbs**. Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection (Amateur), *Royal Rich*, *Winneregreen*, *Pat Champagne*, **Debbie Debruin**. Best in Show, *Party Print*, **Gerri Goins**. Second Best in Show, *Optimara Little Amethyst*, Best Miniature, *Optimara Little Amethyst*, **Onalee McEwen**. Best Semi, *Vagabond*, **Martha Turner**. Best Gesneriad, *Chirita sinensis*, **Shirley Sanders**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Janey Reddell**. Best AVSA Standard Collection (Commercial), *Phantom Flash*, *Touch of Velvet*, *Janice Ann*, **Grace Davis**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection (Commercial), *Magic Blue*, *Pat Champagne*, *Wee Be*, **Hortense Pittman**. Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection (Commercial), *Precious Pink*, *Pride of Columbus*, *Pat Champagne*, Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Ken Froboese**.

MID ATLANTIC AVS — Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection, *Shooting Star*, *Optimara Manitoba II*, *Sedona*, **Janet Haag**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection, *Mini Papa*, *Rob's Fiddle Paddle*, *Ness' Sno Fun*, Best Trailer, *Milky Way Trail*, Best Miniature, *Optimara Little Moonstone*, Best Semi, *Sassy Shirley*, **J. R. Peeler**. Best in Show, *Party Print*, Second Best in Show, *Double Print*, **Marie Burns**. Best Design, "Eerie Shadows," **Joyce Stenger**. Best Gesneriad, *Nematanthus 'Cheerto'*, Sweepstakes (Design), **Betty Lages**. Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Diane Richardson**.

OHIO STATE AVS — Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection, *Ness' Misty Blue*, *Ness' Sizzlin' Pink*,

Phantom Flash, Best Semi, Rob's Wow Wee, **Mary Martin**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection, Private Stock, Granger's Desert Dawn, Dallas Doozie, Best in Show, Dib's Ming Blue, **Sharon Holtzman**. Best Design, Sweepstakes (Design),

Cathy Black. Best Trailer, Flower Power, Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Emilie Savage**. Best Miniature, Petite Jewel, **Jamie Christensen**. Best Gesneriad, *Episcia 'Pink Satin'*, **Janice Carr**.

Growing Conditions Can Really Vary

PEGGY PAYNE

108 S. Elizabeth St., Hallsville, MO 65255

I grow African violets in an old, drafty house without central heating or air conditioning. Missouri weather is very capricious; however, nice plants can be grown, and they can do well in spite of the weather. Room temperatures can vary from 50° to 95°. I have one plant stand in a room that has no direct heat, and sometimes there is ice on the floor underneath the stand. But the plants still do well. So violets are tougher than we think.

Actually, I have more trouble in summer than in winter.

Here are some of the things I have learned:

I had trouble finding a soil that suited my conditions. I used several mixes, until I found Sunshine brand at Wal-Mart. I want a very light soil, so I mix two measures of Sunshine peat-based mix with two measures of vermiculite - large chunk.

I grew plants on individual wick containers, then in trays on matting; and then went back to the individual reservoirs. Watering is critical. I constant feed for three weeks, let the reservoirs run dry, then fill with clear water. Plants grown under extremes need to dry out. I use a variety of fertilizers, switching

from 2-2-2.

Summer foliage growth is vigorous. Winter growth is slow. In September, I break plants down and repot. I've found that it's better to start with young plants in the fall. They make nicer show plants. (Our show is in May.)

I disbud potential show plants and let others bloom. Show plants are on top shelves, for temperature's sake. Most plants are disbudded in July and August because blooms are so bad looking, in spite of constant air circulation.

There are compensations for cooler temperatures — variegations is beautiful and blooms are large and clear in color.

I have learned that some plants will not do well for me. I have trouble with anything hybridized in Texas unless we have a warm winter. Canadian and Eastern seaboard hybrids do well. Most Optimaras grow well for me. So does anything hybridized locally or north of me, in the upper midwest.

I know that my plants are going to be smaller — not like the giants that another club member with a warm plant room grows — but I'm happy with them.

AVSA

Booster Fund

RUTH WARREN, Chairman
P. O. Box 3664
Fall River, MA 02722

The AVSA Booster Fund provides for considerations that are not included in the AVSA budget. With the permanent move to the "new home," there is a need for some new furnishings and equipment for the AVSA office.

Our present goal is to raise approximately \$4,000 to acquire the following needed considerations:

2 secretary chairs @ \$113.00 each
1 two-drawer file cabinet \$100.00
1 four-shelf storage cabinet \$200.00
1 small desk with file drawer \$189.00
1 four-drawer file cabinet \$125.00
2 four-shelf bookcases @ \$150.00 each
6 stack chairs @ \$25.00 each
1 desk work center \$300.00/\$350.00
1 bursting machine \$1,300.00
1 auto folder
(folds letters and forms) \$700.00
1 tape recorder
(for use of library materials) \$40.00
1 electric letter opener \$200.00

The Booster Fund raised \$16,000.00 to provide the office with a new computer and printer last year. This would not have been possible without the contributions from many of our affiliate societies, clubs and councils, as well as many individuals. AVSA appreciates your support.

As Booster Fund chair, I will contribute the first \$300.00 to this endeavor from proceeds from special activities held this year. Perhaps donations could be made in memory of some of our "violet friends" or from monies raised with exhibits and plant sales.

ATTENTION: There will be a new and special offering at the Lancaster convention. Please come and visit our exhibit and be one of the first to take advantage, after seeing our "sneak preview." The AVSA Booster Fund Table will be the place ... don't be disappointed! And, don't forget ... pins and patches from past conventions will also be available.

Richmond AVS	\$25.00
Bay State AVS	25.00
Don Thornburg	10.00
Amethyst AVS	10.00
Columbus AVS	25.00
WI Council of AV Clubs	
in memory of Gladys Klumb	10.00
Sugarloaf Mountain VS, MD	10.00
Moby Dick AVC	25.00



A FAMILY PORTRAIT

GEORGENE ALBRECHT
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

x-Achimenantha 'Inferno'

Our featured gesneriad, *X-Achimenantha 'Inferno'*, (ah KIH meh nan thah) is one of those intergeneric crosses between *Achimenes* (ah KIH meh neez) and *Smithiantha* (smih the AN thah). This little sweetie never seemed content in my light garden so I grew them successfully outdoors this summer. By some quirk of fate, or frenzied haste upon potting, the rhizomes were planted in the same basket as *Achimenes 'Yellow Beauty'*. This chance planting allowed the yellow variety to bloom out first, then the wonderful, rich, red foliage of 'Inferno' burst forth producing those great, red-velvet leaves. Blooms are charming, red with a yellow throat. They look just fine in a small hanging basket.

Its culture is typical of the family — lots of light, water, fertilizer and temperatures above 55°. A few polymer, moisture-retaining granules were added to the basket soil and a timed-release formula of Osmocote 14-14-14 was used. Any water soluble fertilizer is sure to produce good foliage. 'Inferno' is small and will need to be pinched when the plant can spare all but four leaves. This is a bushy grower that will fill the basket nicely.

I have also developed an affinity to green plastic baskets. White ones seem to detract from



x-Achimenantha 'Inferno'

the beauty of the plant. Remember that roots do much better in a dark colored container. Now is the time to start *Achimenes*. If you order them, ask the sender to wait until the weather is warm enough. Rhizomes should not be chilled or left out in the cold. They may look rather strange, what with the thin, wire-like new growth elongating in a spiral growth pattern.

Jim Liston, a member of our Pittsburgh Violet Society, has shared with me a rhizomatous gesneriad that grows huge, white, tubular flowers with *Achimenes* foliage. Each leaf axil produces many, long-lasting flowers. It looks like a cross between a tubiflora type *Sinningia* and an *Achimenes*. My *Achimenes* did weird things this year; one of them, 'Fuchsia Beauty,' grew dozens of propagules from the leaf axils. This may have been caused by over fertilization. An unknown blue produced the largest, blue blooms I've ever seen. One called 'Rose Frost' filled a 12-inch basket from only four rhizomes, without any pinching. The Townsends, from Australia, had given me a beautiful, rose *Achimenes* that thinks it is still in Australia. Someone suggested that I take tip cuttings and root them to help reverse the seasons.

RECAP

A grower has written me about Osmocote timed-release fertilizer being successful in preventing yellowing of lower leaves on African violet trailers. It does work well; in addition, a water soluble fertilizer is extra insurance that there will not be a lack of nutrition. I never use the full

amount of fertilizer. Most micronutrients are present in the various brand named fertilizers even though they are not listed on the label. Listing them is complicated because each state has their own regulations on many of the formula ingredients and packaging each accordingly is impossible.

About Osmocote, bright sun and light decompose the nylon capsules so fast that fertilizer can gush out, burning roots. Always mix the fertilizer into the soil.

Moisture retaining polymers must also be respected. They will continue to absorb water so

long as they are subjected to more water. Four days of rain on my outdoor urns was too much. The polymers swelled with water to the point of suffocating the roots.

Fall has brought wondrous things to us. The foliage color was the best in years; our violet show was fun; our garden won a contest and, get this, I'm gainfully employed as a floral designer for an elegant florist. For this reason, I may not be able to answer correspondence promptly. Please, be patient. I have also been enjoying many visits to other clubs. Good growing to you.



UNITY was the key word in South Africa recently when, for the first time, members of the four different clubs met for the tenth annual show of the Transvaal AVS. From left to right are: Rodney Hahn of Cape AVS, Jo Cossavella of Natal AVS, Joan Halford of Transvaal AVS and Willie le Roux of Vaal River AVS.

*Let's all meet
in Lancaster, PA
April 19 - 24, 1993!*

AVSA Spotlight is on ...

Dr. Jeff Smith

With this issue, we would like to introduce a new column and welcome a new columnist.

The column, "In Search of New Violets," will answer questions on hybridizing and will begin in the May/June 1993 issue of *African Violet* magazine.

Dr. Jeff Smith, who will be writing the column, is already known to many readers of this publication.

Jeff is currently a Life Science Instructor at the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities. The academy is a state-wide high school for gifted and talented juniors and seniors. Jeff teaches Human Genetics, Cell and Molecular Biology, and Advanced Placement Biology. Several students at the academy are working on research projects in African violets, including a DNA fingerprint study of some of the species.

Jeff has been a member of AVSA for over 12 years and recently joined the Indiana State African Violet Society and the Indianapolis Metro Area African Violet Society.

"I have been growing African violets for over 15 years," said Jeff. "Originally, the plants were just a hobby, but I soon found myself applying my scientific training to questions such as the inheritance of flower color and Lilian Jarrett variegation."

The recipient of several grants from the Boyce Edens Research Fund, Jeff has published over 12 articles from this research in



the *AVM*. Two of the articles were based on research conducted by one of his high school students.

A presentation of some of his research work was given at the 1992 AVSA Convention held in Columbus, Ohio.

Jeff has been hybridizing for several years, mainly to test genetic theories and observations. He consulted regularly with the late Bill Johnson ("Ask Your Hybridizer" *AVM*), on genetic matters. Jeff considered Bill's column to have been one of the best and considers it a challenge to live up to his standards and expertise.

Jeff was also involved with the documentation of the yellow African violet.

Two of Jeff's hybrids were released by Genola Cox (The Violet Express), last year and several more are expected this year. He has been focusing on Lilian Jarrett variegation and hopes to have Lilian Jarrett

plants with corals, fantasy blooms, etc., in this year's seedlings.

Jeff has also been growing species violets. He has been doing some hybridizing with the species and has his first seedlings just coming into bloom. He finds the species to be fascinating and feels that they hold a great deal of potential for genes bred into future cultivars.

Jeff also raised gerbils for seven years and has genetic records on over 2,000 animals covering 17 generations. Some of that genetic data is being prepared for publication and was presented at a professional science meeting last fall.

A family man, Jeff and his wife, Deb, have been married 10 years. Deb is also a botanist, but uses her science background as a volunteer science teacher to elementary school children. They are the parents of four children (ages 4-8), including twin daughters.

The Smiths recently moved from Oklahoma to Indiana for Jeff's new job.

Jeff has a M.S. and B.S. in Botany from Miami University of Ohio, and a Ph. D. in Botany from the University of Oklahoma.

Any questions you have, pertaining to hybridizing, should be sent to:

Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana 47306

Photographing Violets

CAROL BRUCE
2705 Valparaiso
Las Vegas, NV 89108-3946

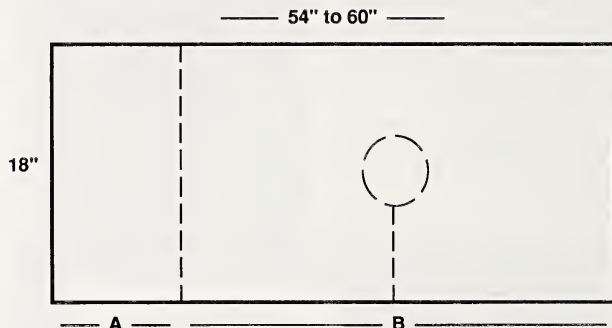
The last time you tried to shoot a close-up of your favorite violet blossom, did the resulting photo come out too red (under incandescent lights) or too green (under the fluorescent lights) or too washed out by a too-near flash?

After frustrating photo sessions where I didn't have the right lights or equipment, I was driven to do something that I felt was totally reckless — and it worked beautifully!

You might want to try it with only one plant first. Then, observe the violet for a few days to be sure it wasn't sunburned before trying to photograph your entire collection. I jumped in and shot everything blooming the first time I tried it. None of my plants suffered — and I got some great photographs.

Ready? Here's a list of equipment needed:

1. Alert assistant with good reflexes.
2. Umbrella or posterboard for a sunshade.
3. 2 yard piece of black or deep blue velvet.
4. 18" strip of velvet, cut from the 2 yard piece as in illustration.



Cut an 18" wide strip from one end of the velvet yardage (from two yards)

Cut on dotted lines as shown:

For the beanbag (A), cut a 6" strip off the end of the 18" piece, fold, sew and stuff with beans or plastic beads

For the pot wrap, cut into the larger piece (B) as shown, discarding the 3" - 4" cut-out circle. Finish raw edges if desired by serging or use fray-check.

5. A small beanbag (4-6 inches) made from the 18" strip of velvet as shown in illustration.
6. Camera with close-up lens or macro focus
7. Color print or slide film. (More than you expect to use.)
8. If possible, polarizing filter and/or ultraviolet filter.
9. A sunny day before noon, no wind, and an air temperature that feels comfortable.

10. Table

11. A flat, vertical object such as a tall, straight chair backed against the table; or a box at least 18" wide and tall to set on the back of the table.

12. Extra small table or chair to set camera on.

13. African violet, groomed and brushed so that no pet hairs, dust or specks of potting soil will mar close-ups.

14. African violet stand-in (fake plant or object of approximate size of your violet).

15. Camera tripod, optional.

16. Clear syrup, optional.

17. Any additional props for photo interest.

18. Ladder, optional.

Procedure:

1. Set up the table in the sun with the vertical surface (chair or box) on the side away from the sun. Drape the velvet so that it covers the table and this adjoining "wall." Place the table and backdrop so that as you are standing directly in front of it, your shadow does not fall across it. Be sure the whole table set-up can be moved slightly as necessary as the sun moves, if you are photographing a large number of plants. Stay CONSTANTLY aware of shadows which could spoil the picture.
2. Be sure the camera is loaded and ready to go. Set it, any accessories and lots of film on the extra table or chair placed in reaching distance.
3. Position the violet stand-in in the middle of the velvet drape and observe it through the camera. Does the drape cover the whole background? Or is a piece of the backyard or the neighbor's fence showing in the corner? Adjust the set-up until the background is all velvet.
4. Adjust camera settings.

5. Remove the violet stand-in, and if desired, set a coin on the velvet to mark the place.

6. Have your assistant standing by with one to four violets in a shaded, wind-proof spot. The umbrella or posterboard should be in hand's reach.

7. Use the slitted strip of velvet to slide under the violet leaves, and over the pot, wrapping the velvet around the pot to keep any part of the soil or pot from showing between leaf stems on close-ups. (If necessary, first slip a plastic bag over bottom of the pot to protect the velvet backdrop from soil and water drips.)

8. While your assistant holds the sunshade to protect the violet, position the violet on the table, view it through the camera, and decide on the best plant position and camera angle. If necessary, use the beanbag to prop the violet at the best angle.

9. As soon as the best shot is determined, have your assistant remove the sunshade and make sure his or her shadow is not shading plant.

10. Double check camera settings and take one or more photos. Professionals "bracket" their shots. This is done by taking the same photo three times: one shot at the indicated exposure, one at the next higher f-

stop, and one at the next lower f-stop. This usually ensures that one of the exposures will be just right. There are three basic options for photographing the violets. If possible, do all three:

- a. Close-up of one perfect flower.
- b. Mid-distance shot, showing a cluster of blossoms, and possibly a leaf.
- c. Long shot, showing entire plant.

(And, for the true daredevil photographer, try d. Place the violet on velvet on the ground, and shoot down at it from a ladder.)

11. Anytime you are not actually checking camera settings or taking photos, have your assistant step in to shade the plant or switch it with the next one. This limits the violet's actual sun exposure to seconds or at the most, a few minutes.
12. Optional touches: For close-ups and mid-distance shots, if you are willing to sacrifice that one perfect blossom, place one or two drops of clear syrup on it to simulate the sparkle of water. It will stay put and not drip off or evaporate as water does. Props, such as a piece of driftwood, a decorative item, or a strip of fabric complementing the flower color can

be added for a contrast in textures or to form a composition.

Other Tips:

Black velvet provides the most dramatic backdrop. Wrinkles in black velvet usually don't show in photos. Keep it stored with your camera equipment. When photographing blue and purple blossoms, an ultraviolet filter is almost necessary. Blue flowers reflect a high amount of ultraviolet that human eyes can't detect. This causes blue flowers to come out purple or red in photos unless the UV filter is used.

Polarizing filters eliminate stray reflections (yes, even on a glossy violet leaf!) and can make the colors in a photo more vibrant, and heighten contrasts.

Club Photo Session

This daredevil photo approach can be also used for a club project.

Set up as many "outdoor studios" as practical, with a different color drape, beanbag and pot cover at each "studio." If photographing many plants, it's actually easier to have several tables set up, rather than switching drapes back and forth. (Suggested drape colors are black, sky blue, white, blossom colors, and a red to put behind white flowered violets.)

It would be nice to have as many photographers as "studios," but one photographer can circulate among them easily.

Watch out for "studio" placement with regards to shadows. Don't have everything set up, only to find that the people at one "studio" are throwing shadows across the next.

Be sure there is plenty of film. Some people are so conservative; it may be best to plan on shooting *two or three times* as much film as thought necessary. Keep shooting "just one more photo, please — and one

more." Film is cheap compared to the effort and time going into the session. How easy would it be to gather these people and plants again? So take another — "just one more." Sometimes the last photo is the best of the day.

If possible, have one camera loaded with print film and another with slides. Snap each shot with both cameras. This will provide photos to pass around or for the scrapbook, and slides for a club slide program or for magazine reproduction.

Before working with the actual violets, decide which assistants will handle plants and who will handle sunshades. Then have a quick rehearsal. This will help to avoid any confusion that could lead to damaged plants.

DON'T FORGET THE AVM

And, finally, please share those magnificent results with the *African Violet Magazine*.

Growing African Violets with an Aquarium Fluorescent Bulb

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ST. MARYS, PA 15857

Being an avid outdoor gardener as well as an indoor gardener, I was frustrated every spring trying to raise tomato plants on my four-tier plant light stand. Tomato plants demand a lot of direct sunlight, and in

early April, in northwestern Pennsylvania, sunlight is definitely at a premium.

My wide-spectrum plant lights were simply not strong enough to promote lush, leafy tomato plants. I moved my plants from

window to window soaking up every bit of sunlight I could find.

I dreamed of a plant light strong enough to grow tomatoes.

Aside from gardening, kids, and African violets, another of

my hobbies is keeping tropical fish. In fact, I work part time in an aquarium shop. We received literature one day on a very good fluorescent aquarium tube called "Triton," manufactured by Interpet. This bulb was designed for optimal growth of freshwater plants, and saltwater algae and invertebrates such as anemones. If you will pardon the pun, a light came on — I began to wonder if I could use this tube on my tomatoes.

Now, I am no rocket scientist when it comes to light spectrum, nanometers, etc., but the literature had a graph comparing Triton bulbs to a Gro-Lux bulb. The Triton had twice as many blue rays as the Gro-Lux, and a comparable (though a little less) amount of red rays. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, and I went home that night with a 48" Triton tube.

To make a long story short, my tomato plants leaped out of their pots and shouted "Hallelujah," under the Triton tube! I have never grown such fine tomatoes as I did the summer of 1992. One plant in my garden was as tall as I am — 5'8"! I can only speculate that their fine start resulted in extra fine plants once they were transplanted outside.

I was left with a bare shelf once my tomatoes were planted outside — every violet grower's dream. I began to wonder what the Triton tube would do for my African violets. I experimented all summer and the results were extremely gratifying.

It seemed as though my plants grew a little faster under the Triton, and they definitely put up bloom stalks faster. The flowers also seemed to open faster.

The leaf colors of my violets were a lush green and I can only describe my plants as happy.

One word of CAUTION — SOME of my plants did great under the Triton, some of them did not. The Triton tube is twice as bright as a normal wide spectrum tube, due to the fact that its light must penetrate 24" or deeper through water. This means that some African violets may find its light much too intense and will suffer from "new bulb syndrome." Some of my violets began exhibiting tightening of the centers. I simply moved these to a shelf with normal wide spectrum lighting. Another drawback (which in fact may turn out to be a plus) is the fact that the Triton Tube maintains between 100% to 90% of their maximum light output of 7,500 to 10,000 hours. This means that they do not "mellow out" as other fluorescent bulbs do, but they last longer. When they are no longer effective, they simply shut off.

Another drawback of the Triton bulb is that it is relatively expensive — about \$25. They last about two years, though, and in fact, may turn out to be

cheaper in the long run than a wide spectrum bulb. One may be able to counter "new bulb syndrome" by leaving the light on only eight hours a day, instead of 12 hours.

It is not only tomatoes and African violets that do well under these lights — I also have three Amaryllis that I grew from seed, and various cacti (jungle and desert) and a Hoya under the Triton. All are doing great and flourishing.

You will only be able to purchase a Triton at your local pet shop or through the mail. If your pet shop does not carry Tritons, they can probably order them for you. They come in 24", 30", 36", and 48" lengths.

I do not expect the Triton tube to be right for everyone, and I will probably not use Tritons in all of my plant lights, but I will always use one or two. I would like to hear from anyone who tries the Triton, and has either success or failure, or any other input regarding this bulb.

For more information about the Triton Bulb, you can write: Aquarium Products, 180L Penrod Court, Glen Burnie, MD 21061.



VIOLET PROUD — Libby Watkins of Bloomington, Illinois and Jean Willey of Crown Point, Indiana, both AVSA Judges and certainly doing their part in promoting African violets!

The Thrips Returned — Time to Bring Out the Big Guns!

NEIL D. LIPSON
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BROOMALL, PA 19008

About a month after I wrote my last article for the AVM, "A Double Dose of Thrips," the thrips came back. How dare they! Well, enough of the light stuff, I decided to solve this once and for all.

I called some of the big commercials, and after about four calls to the experts, I found out about PT 1300 from Whitmire. It is orthene spray. When I heard the word "orthene" I feared my wife would throw me out of the house because of the odor. I was in for a pleasant surprise—the odor was hardly noticeable.

I first bought the Total Release version. Stupid me. This is meant for a large greenhouse, to set off like a "bomb"—put on your gas mask and run away! Then I bought the 18 oz. Directed Spray version. That did it. Period.

The action of orthene is that it is a systemic, meaning it is absorbed into the plant. The thrips cannot hide from it. And, because it is absorbed, you can spray half as often—about once every five or seven days. In fact, if you miss a spraying, it is no disaster, because some of the orthene is still in the plant.

You may have an allergy to it, but I have not heard that this is a problem. I have heard of no health problems associated with it.

Now, let's talk about the thrips some more. I have not purchased

or received any plants in 10 months and have had no thrips. So, what does this say? The easiest way to get thrips is to introduce them into the collection, from other plants. So, what do you do? You treat all new plants as though they are infected, regardless of their origin. There are two ways to do this—the first is to wash off all the soil. Then pull off all the leaves and flowers, except for the top row and spray head to toe in malathion solution (normal dilution), and put in a plastic bag for three days while still wet and dripping.

The second method is to do nothing to the plant, but spray it for about a month with the PT-1300, every 5-7 days. Don't wait to see thrips, because by then it is too late. You'll be spending hours trying to find them and then still miss them. Isolate these new plants for a month.

Thrips can be anywhere. I turned on the attic fan and when I went to the kitchen window, the sill was crawling with them. I keep no plants in the kitchen, because I use gas for cooking, but no one should place plants near an open window, especially with any fans on, drawing air into the house.

I expect the PT-1300 to work for a few more years, at least, before we see an orthene resistant thrips. I like this particular

version of the spray better because it does not have the intense odor of diluted orthene powder (never use oil based orthene sprays—you'll kill the violets).

By the way, I want to clear up the dilution rate of malathion in my original article. I watered the plants with a 1:4 solution of malathion which is taking your normal diluted solution, and then diluting even more by a ratio of about 1 to 4, or 1 quart of diluted solution with 3 or 4 quarts of water. This very dilute solution is fine to water with, and not cause any problems. Never use 1 quart of malathion with 4 quarts of water. It won't kill you, but the odor will drive you two blocks away. If you normally add 1 teaspoon of malathion to a quart of water, then add only 1/4 teaspoon for the watering solution.

One last point ... I tried to treat my plants without disbud-ding. Take my advice, you must disbud the plant. Sorry. You'll have to spray for two months instead of one if you don't do this. If you disbud, after a month, the plant will explode with blooms and be clear of thrips.

AVSA
24-Hour FAX
409-839-4329

I Wanna Be a Star!

by

IMA SAINTPAULIA

(with help from Iris Keating)

Ooh, I'm so excited! It is only eight weeks until show time, and my friend who looks after me has started to give me extra attention. Today she took me to the sink and gave my leaves a bath. She covered my soil with plastic wrap and was careful to tilt me under the gentle, tepid spray so that I did not lose any soil from around my roots. It felt good to have all of my pores cleaned so that I can breathe again. My leaves really shine! She gently patted me dry with a tissue and was ever so careful to get all the water out of my crown so that I don't get spotted or rot or anything. She didn't let me get chilled by any drafts, and she made sure that I was dry before I got near any sunlight again.

All my blossoms and buds were removed before my bath, leaving short peduncle stubs just like she always does eight weeks before a show. She doesn't want to take the chance that I misbehave and don't bloom on cue.

My best friend talks to me all the time and tells me that judges are real sticklers for cleanliness. That means that I will be getting brushed often to keep my leaves and stems clean and shiny. The brush sure tickles — but she's very gentle, so I don't mind.

Obedience lessons have

started, too! I have to wear a training collar so I will learn how to hold my leaves up properly, and she uses crushed plastic wrap to move them around to fill in any gaps in my symmetry. She keeps telling me that my form will count 25 points and that I will lose up to 3 points for each gap that I have, so I'd better shape up!

Every morning I have to submit to an inspection to make sure that I am doing as I am told. But she pets me and keeps telling me how beautiful I am, so I'm very anxious to make her proud of me. Yesterday one of the other plants accidentally damaged a leaf, but she soothed my hurt feelings and told me that I would probably lose only one point.

She keeps close tabs on the size of my lower leaves and does not allow them to be smaller than the row above. I am only permitted to have three rows of leaves so that I can keep them all looking healthy. She even mists me once a week with what she calls foliar feeding to keep my leaves pretty. It sure helps, 'cause I have trouble getting food out to the edges of all my leaves.

I am developing a neck and have been worried about the three points I would lose for that fault, but she tells me not

to fret. A day or so before the show she will carefully lift me out of my pot and remove the perlite at the bottom of my roots. Then she will slip me back into my pot and add fresh soil at the top of my root ball. If I grow too much, she will put me into a little larger pot so that my leaf span is three times as wide as my pot. I MUST keep my proportion correct!

I have to remember to stay exactly in the center of my pot where she put me. She will be upset if I move because that is another three-point deduction, the same as for not being the right size for my pot.

Sheesh, with all these rules to remember, my crown is spinning!

The day before the show, my friend will give me my final grooming. I will have all petiole (leaf stem) and peduncle (flower stem) stubs removed. She will check again to see if I have any small, marred or yellowed leaves that should be removed. She will confiscate all my spent blossoms so that I will look really snazzy and fresh. All of these things count off one point each except for old blossoms — they count 1/2 point each.

Sometimes I try to sneak a sucker in just to see if she is on her toes. That would really frost her because it would get me

eliminated from consideration. She would be so disappointed — and, to be honest, so would I!

I must watch my diet and make sure that I have plenty of bloom. That counts 25 points. My condition — how clean I am and whether I have a neck or

any imperfections or old blossoms — will be worth another 25 points. I'm not too worried about the size and type of my blossoms (15 points) or my blossom color (10 points) because my friend is careful to have my growing conditions just right.

She and I sure do make a winning team — her great culture AND my great breeding!

Let's see — she says I need 90 points to get a blue ribbon. Hmm — there's one demerit. Oops, two, w-e-l-l, maybe 2-1/2 ... wow, I've gotta be more careful!

Culture Tip for Microminiatures

CHARLOTTE C. EBERHARD
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Tempe, AZ 85282

If you have trouble keeping your microminiature plants properly damp, particularly in a low-humidity climate like ours in Arizona, the following technique might help.

(It also helps if you are a photographer or know someone who is.)

Plant each little plant in the standard 1-1/4 inch plastic pot, but wick each with a single

strand of Orlon yarn, or the equivalent.

Dangle each little tail in an empty plastic container for 35mm film.

You will find that the pot fits as if it were designed for this purpose.

Fill the reservoir with your usual dilute fertilizer solution and place the entire thing under the lights in the same way

you do for your larger plants.

Kodak uses opaque black plastic. Algae does not grow in these reservoirs. Fujifilm comes in translucent containers. These do need to be cleaned out occasionally, but they allow you to check the water level more readily.

The choice is yours, but it is surprising how much water these little plants use.

If you find that the set-up is a bit tipsy, the bottom of the reservoir could be glued to a piece of cardboard or thin plywood or, as shown in the photograph, you can put a pebble in the container.

The micro-miniature on the left is Snuggles Blue Pearl and the one on the right is Rob's April Storm.



You don't
want to miss
the 1993
AVSA Convention
in
Lancaster, PA.

Know Your Fertilizers ...

Nitrogen ... gives dark green color to plants and promotes rapid growth. Nitrogen makes up nearly 4/5 of the air; therefore there is really no shortage of this element as a gas. It is colorless, odorless and tasteless. In the soil, nitrogen combines with living organisms and the decomposed residues of plants and animals which is called organic matter. There are many sources of nitrogen on the market. The most commonly known are: ammonium sulphate, sodium nitrate, calcium nitrate, urea, ammophos, animal guanos, blood meal and bone meal. There are many others including liquid nitrogen, called anhydrous ammonia, which is applied usually in irrigation systems. The liquid fish and whale fertilizers also contain nitrogen. In fertilizer mixes, nitrogen is the percentage named first. For instance, in a 6-10-4 mix, there is 6 per cent nitrogen.

Phosphorus ... In fertilizer mixes, nitrogen is the percent in terms of available phosphoric acid. It is the second percentage in a fertilizer mix, or in a 6-10-4 mix, there is 10 per cent available phosphoric acid. Phosphorus stimulates early root formation and root growth. With better root development, plant vigor is increased to where the plant can withstand sudden changes in weather. Phosphorus gives rapid and vigorous start to plants and stimulates blooming. Phosphorus is needed

to change the starch in plants to sugar. Phosphorus aids in balancing the mineral relationship in the soil and this aids in increasing resistance to disease. Sources of phosphorus are natural deposits of phosphorus-bearing rock, iron ores, together with animal bones. Large deposits are found in Idaho, Utah, Montana, Wyoming and in some eastern states. Phosphorus is available as phosphate rock—finely ground rock in its natural state—bone meal, superphosphate, ammoniated superphosphate, and there is some in the liquid fish and whale fertilizers.

Potash or Potassium ... In fertilizers this element is always stated in terms of potash. It is the third percentage in a fertilizer formula, or the 4 per cent in a 6-10-4 mix. Potash imparts increased vigor and disease resistance to plants. It improves the quality of plants, and also helps the development of root systems. Potash is often called the alkali of life because potassium-containing materials, such as wood ashes, were the first fertilizers used by humans. Potash is indispensable in the formation of chlorophyll which is produced by the aid of sunlight which brings about starch formation. Sources of potash in mixed fertilizers are usually sulphate or muriate of potash.

Calcium or Lime ... Calcium promotes early root formation and growth. It improves general

plant vigor. Calcium influences the intake of other plant foods. It occurs in soils in many different minerals varying greatly in the proportion of lime present. Calcium is used for correcting soil acidity or for sweetening the soil. Calcium materials are carbonates (limestone), caustic lime, and by-products of blast furnaces. Oyster shells make wonderful liming materials when finely ground.

Iron ... is available as plant food in two forms—ferric sulphate and iron chelate. Iron is used in the correction of iron chlorosis—a yellowing of leaves.

Zinc ... is linked with iron and manganese in the formation of chlorophyll.

Magnesium ... (also known as Epsom salts) is an essential part of chlorophyll. It regulates the uptake of other plant foods and acts as a carrier of phosphorus.

Manganese ... increases the availability of calcium, magnesium, and phosphorus. It aids in synthesis (union of elements) of chlorophyll and functions in photosynthesis (a process of green plants by which carbohydrates are formed from the carbon dioxide and water of the air under the influence of light).

Sulphur ... Sulphur gives increased root growth. It helps maintain dark green color and encourages more vigorous plant growth. It corrects alkalinity of the soil.

Molybdenum ... This element seems essential in nitrogen utilization by the plant.

Tally Time - 1992

Mrs. Anna Jean Landgren
2450 Iroquois Road
Wilmette, IL 60091

Tally Time is a summary of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards during 1992 based on 134 reports including 1,433 awards from state and local shows.

Show chairs, please note, the names of winning 1993 varieties should be reported on the "Tally Time Report" form included in your Standard Show Award packet. Please send the forms to Anna Jean Landgren at the above address.

Total Number of Awards	Number Best of Show	Number Second Best	Variety Hybridizer Reg. No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Mini, SM, Trail, or Species
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STANDARDS

20	4	2	Bertha B. Foster #6159	14	
15	4	3	Picasso M. Tremblay #6924	8	
13	2	0	Happy Cricket Hollada #5726	11	
12	2	0	Lela Marie I. Lineberg #5668	10	
12	2	0	Phantom Flash G. Boone #7065	10	

SEMIMINIATURES

32	2	1	Precious Pink H. Pittman #6025	14	15
30	4	0	Little Pro H. Pittman #6637	15	11
18	0	2	Snuggles L. Lyon #5018	0	11
14	0	1	Irish Flirt S. Sorano #7577	9	4
12	1	0	Rob's Fiddle Faddle R. Robinson #7431	10	1

MINIATURES

16	1	0	Petite Jewel H. Pittman #7085	2	13
12	1	0	Mickey Mouse H. Inpijn	0	11

TRAILERS

16	0	1	Rob's Sticky Wicket R. Robinson #6467	2	13
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Total Number of Awards	Number Best of Show	Number Second Best	Variety Hybridizer Reg. No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Mini, SM, Trail, or Species
SAINTPAULIA SPECIES					
16	1	0	<i>S. grandifolia</i> S 237	1	14
14	1	0	<i>S. pendula kizarae</i> S 8a	0	12

Last year I initiated a chart showing the correlation between geography and award winners. This has been repeated this year with slight variations in the geographical arrangement so as to make the five areas more equal. The following table tabulates this analysis:

VARIETY	TOTAL NO. OF AWARDS	GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS				
		I	II	III	IV	V
Standards						
Bertha	20	5	0	2	13	0
Picasso	15	4	1	3	4	3
Happy Cricket	13	3	1	2	2	5
Lela Marie	12	2	0	1	8	1
Phantom Flash	12	1	7	1	2	1
Semiminiatures						
Precious Pink	32	9	6	4	6	7
Little Pro	30	4	10	7	5	4
Snuggles	18	3	4	3	6	2
Irish Flirt	14	0	6	3	2	3
Rob's Fiddle Faddle	12	1	5	1	2	3
Miniatures						
Petite Jewel	16	3	2	4	5	2
Mickey Mouse	12	2	1	4	1	4
Trailers						
Rob's Sticky Wicket	16	5	2	4	4	1
Saintpaulia Species						
S. grandifolia	16	2	1	6	4	3
S. pendula kizarae	14	2	1	7	3	1
Number of Shows		46	47	52	67	40

Reporting states by area are: #I includes Alberta, Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah; #II - Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Ontario and Wisconsin; #III - Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Brunswick, New Jersey, New York, Nova Scotia, Pennsylvania and Quebec; #IV - Alabama, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas; #V - Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. We received no Tally Time sheets from the states not listed.

Other varieties winning five or more awards within an area were: #I - no additional; this division definitely preferred the top winners; #II - Nortex's Snowkist Haven (5) and *S. velutina* (5); #III - Sapphire Halo (7) and *S. orbicularis* (5); #IV - Magnolia (6) and Ness' Sno Fun (5); #V - Wrangler's Dixie Celebration.

I would be delighted to hear from any of you as to how you like the format of Tally Time. Next year, with the addition of a second AVSA Collection class in many shows, there will undoubtedly be more winners. In 1994 should we include a Best Standard?

REGISTRATION REPORT



IRIS KEATING
149 LORETTO COURT
CLAREMONT, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

REGISTRATIONS

Genelle Armstrong - Metairie, LA

***FRENCH KISS** (7802) 10/1/92 (Armstrong/Domiano) Double dark pink shaded ruffled large/fuchsia glitter overlay. Dark green, plain. **Large**

***KATIE ANNA** (7803) 10/1/92 (Armstrong/Domiano) Semidouble medium pink star/darker edge. Dark green, plain, pointed, glossy/red back. **Large**

***LUSTY LILAC** (7804) 10/1/92 (Armstrong/Domiano) Semidouble-double lavender two-tone star. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**

***SUMMER RAIN** (7805) 10/1/92 (Armstrong/Domiano) Semidouble fuchsia pansy/pink edge. Variegated medium green and cream, plain. **Large**

Kazuo Horikoshi - Tokyo, Japan

***AL-YOKI** (7806) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Shinohara) Semidouble-double pale lavender frilled star. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy/red back. **Large**

***CONCORD** (7807) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Ozaki) Single-semidouble chimera white pansy/dark blue stripe. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy. **Standard**

***HAKU-YOKI** (7808) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Shinohara) Double white ruffled star. Medium green, quilted, glossy, ruffled/red back. **Large**

***HEKI-YOKI** (7809) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Shinohara) Double blue frilled star. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy/red back. **Large**

***KEI-YOKI** (7810) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Shinohara) Semidouble-double white and blue frilled star/variable green edge. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy/red back. **Large**

***MAI-YOKI** (7811) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Shinohara) Double white frilled star/pink tinge. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy/red back. **Large**

***RED MT. FUJI** (7812) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Kawakami) Single chimera bright rose pansy/dark fuchsia-red stripe. Dark green, plain, pointed, quilted/red back. **Standard**

***THE ALPS** (7813) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Sawara) Single-semidouble chimera white pansy/light blue stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

***YOKI** (7814) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Shinohara) Semidouble purple-blue star/white band, green frilled edge. Dark green, quilted, glossy, frilled/red back. **Standard**

***YUME-YOKI** (7815) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Shinohara) Double pale pink star/green frilled edge. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy/red back. **Large**

Shirley Farnsworth - Bakersfield, CA

***PURPLE MAJESTY** (7816) 11/6/92 (S. Farnsworth) Semidouble chimera white large star/purple stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

Alma Hummer - San Antonio, TX

***FLORENCE WALKER** (7817) 11/14/92 (A. Hummer) Double purple/thin white ruffled edge. Variegated medium green and pink, ruffled. **Large**

Douglas Allen - Clovis, CA

*SIERRA AVALANCHE (7818) 11/30/92 (D. Allen) Single-semidouble white sticktite. Light green, plain, quilted. **Large**

*SIERRA WINDS (7819) 11/30/92 (D. Allen) Single pink ruffled star. Medium green, ovate, quilted, wavy/red back. **Large**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Genelle Armstrong - Metairie, LA

(The following is a hybrid of the late Jeannette Domiano)

*Jeannette's Teddy Bear

J. C. Munk - Houston, TX

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Apache) * Charmer * Classic * Creation * Cutie * Daydream * Dynamo * Fanfare * Flirt * Freedom * Halo * Holiday * Hotshot * Keepsake * Memories * Music * Parade * Redcoats * Sensation * Showoff * Smoke * Sparkler * Special * Superstar * Surprise * Watercolor * Whisper * Winner

Jeani Hatfield - Lincoln, CA

*Court Jester * Delta Breeze * Frog Prince * Pacific Blues * Porcelain Doll * Yankee Drummer

Irene Fredette - Hamden, CT

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Fredette's) * Apricot Silk * Canary * Lemon Creme * Riot * Vermillion

NAME RESERVATION RENEWALS

Genelle Armstrong - Metairie, LA

(The following are hybrids of the late Jeannette Domiano)

* Naughty But Nice * Pasa Good Time * Tickle My Fancy * (Each of the following is preceded by the name Jeannette's) * Bayou Serenade * Cajun Sunshine * Jolie Blonde * Jubilation * Meltdown * Moonshine Madness * Muffalata * Party Hardy * Pure Sin * Pussyfootin' * Southern Elegance * Tinselled Pink * Vermillionville

Lancaster Beckons ...

*Julia Stahl
Publicity Cochair
Lancaster (PA) AVSA Convention*

Pack your duffle bag and your show plants and head for the convention in Dutch Country. We promise you a good time. Our Tour Committee has planned great tours for you.

Come early. Stay late. There is lots to see and do. Lancaster County is peppered with historical sites to visit, Amish homes and farms to tour, shopping outlets, craft shops, tempting restaurants, and much more.

Pennsylvania Dutch Country is not a historical recreation, but a fascinating growing community with its own cuisine, language (Pennsylvania Dutch), and traditions. See how a 17th century culture survives and prospers alongside modern-day America.

While in the area, you will also want to visit Gettysburg and stand where President Abraham Lincoln pondered the words of his famous address.

Visit Hershey, the "sweetest place in the world."

There's also Philadelphia's Valley Forge, and closer, Longwood Gardens, which is a must.

Learn how each came to be.

Pennsylvania holds so much history that a tour of the area will linger in your memory forever. We'll expect you convention week, April 19-24!

Shop till you drop ...

Diane Richardson

Have you heard that expression? If this is your motto, bring your checkbook, credit cards and energy. Lancaster is the home of the outlet stores. If you don't want to travel far from the convention hotel, you can take a cab or walk a short half mile to Lancaster Outlet City.

There are dozens of specialty shops in the area that handle such items as pottery, quilts, furniture, candles and other home crafts made famous by the Pennsylvania Dutch or Amish. Antique shops are everywhere and don't forget to visit the famous indoor/outdoor markets which carry everything from meat, produce and baked goods, to antiques, collectibles, and Amish crafts and flowers.

Maximizing Your Convention Dollar

DAVID BUTTRAM
INDEPENDENCE, MO

For the African violet enthusiast there is little to compare to a national convention. Because of travel costs, up-scale accommodations and a host of "nickel and dime" expenses, most AVSA members rarely attend, if at all. That's sad as there is so much to be gained.

Because of my business and other interests, I attend eight to 10 conventions a year and I have learned to save money, gain information and enjoy people. Following are a few observations from the past. I hope they can help you.

The first step is to plan ahead as far as possible. By early planning and comparative shopping, hundreds of dollars can be saved on transportation. Airlines will encourage you to book early by offering substantially lower fares. Have a travel agent "shop"

for your lowest possible fare.

Don't forget to check Amtrak and the buslines. They offer safe and clean alternatives to flying. Why not join with two or three people from your local club to drive to a convention? This is a wonderful way to get to know someone. If you do drive, you might arrange your route to visit your favorite African violet grower. With the money you have saved by driving, you can buy extra plants.

Plan to share a room with someone if possible. AVSA offers a service of matching registrants to share rooms at tremendous savings. Check the convention information in the January/February AVM for specific information.

It is important to send your convention registration in early. You ensure a spot for your favorite tours and a seat in your selected presentations or workshops. Another reason to register early is to ease the inevitable last minute deluge at the AVSA office in Beaumont.

When making meal reservations, please do not ask to be seated with your friends from back home. You might be thinking that David Buttram doesn't like his fellow Missourians — I do — but I do not want to miss the opportunity of meeting and making new friends. Deep and long-lasting friendships have begun at a luncheon or banquet.

On the subject of meeting people — please leave your

timidity and bashfulness at home. Conventions are filled with people with a common interest — African violets. Sometimes other interests will be found out later, but that initial interest opens the door to conversations, discussions and an exchange of information.

I am by nature, a quiet and shy person, and yet I find myself at ease with my fellow African violet growers. You will too.

Don't forget the commercial members. They not only sell plants and supplies, but they are an important source of information. Talk with them. Get to know them. Ask questions during their slow times. You will find them friendly and eager to assist you in anyway possible.

Take advantage of the lectures and workshops offered. They are free and speakers will address the entire spectrum of African violet culture. Take lots of notes and when you get home, contact your club program chair and volunteer to give a talk at a future meeting on what you learned at convention.

Do the same with 35mm slides you take in the show room. Your club will appreciate your up-to-date presentation. Often a club will reimburse you for film and developing costs, with prior approval.

If arriving at the convention city by air, check around for the cheapest way to the hotel. An experience comes to mind in this regard. I was invited to



attend the Holtkamp Greenhouses tenth anniversary in Nashville, Tennessee, a few years ago. My flight arrived very late and the airport was almost vacant. No taxis could be seen anywhere. I was told by a skycap that the taxis had quit running about an hour earlier. He tried to help by saying that maybe his buddy could help. With that he whistled and a rather dishevelled young man awakened from a lounge chair nearby. He offered to take me anywhere in Nashville for \$5.00. What to do? I was very tired and had a terrible carache from the flight. I decided my most important needs were to get to my hotel for my medicine and a hot shower.

After getting into his car, two more men quickly and quietly appeared from the shadows. They knew my driver. "Hey guys, you wanna ride with me to the north side to drop this feller off?" Sure they did and the pain in my ear was replaced by the pain of fear gripping my entire being.

Then began the most harrowing ride of my life. First a short-cut which was over a rock and dirt road. Tires spun and gravel flew as the car swerved back and forth. Next came a smoother ride as we crossed what I perceived to be either a golf course or a very nice lawn. Either possibility frightened me. After we got onto the freeway, speeds steadily rose to over 85 mph. "Please slow down," I pleaded. "We jes wanna git y'all there in a hurry, suh" was the reply. I did arrive at the hotel soon, checked in and promised myself to never, never ever do that again.

Ground transportation costs

can vary greatly with taxis being the most expensive. There are limousines and public shuttle services in many cities and they are reasonably priced. Many of the better hotels provide free shuttles to guests. Check with your hotel or convention committee for specific information.

After checking into the hotel and registering for the convention, visit the host city's information table. There you will usually find maps and brochures of available free or inexpensive activities. Take advantage of those freebies. See if the hotel has a spa and health club with weights and a pool. There may be a walking tour that will allow you to walk a pre-set course past interesting and historical sites. Other free or low cost activities might be museums, art galleries, special exhibits, gardens — and these suggestions are only the tip of the iceberg.

If you are diabetic or have other special dietary needs, plan ahead and take food items to eat in your room. Just a light snack or pick-me-up will cost five to eight dollars, plus tip, in the average hotel snack shop or coffee shop.

There are so many conveniently packaged foods for such a need. Freeze-dried or canned foods make for a tasty meal at any time of the day or night. Empty cans should be rinsed with hot water to prevent odors and insects.

The last item is my NEW CULTIVARPROCUREMENTKIT or as it is usually called — a "leaf box." One of the reasons we go to African violet conventions is to obtain new plants, leaves and blossoms. Most

commercial members selling leaves will have them properly wrapped. However, you should be prepared for those unexpected "finds" that take place when trading with a room mate, or someone you met at the banquet.

I learned an expensive lesson about being prepared when a few years ago I bought several leaves at \$2.00 each. I did the best I could with what I had, but found them to be green mush when I got home — expensive green mush. Now, I have a plastic box about the size of a shoe box, filled with cotton balls, aluminum foil cut in 2" squares, plastic labels and a marking pen. After getting a leaf, I return to my room and wrap it as normal. Properly wrapped, they will last for many days. Just before I leave the hotel, the leaves are cushioned in the box with toilet or facial tissue.

As a hybridizer, I find that sometimes blossoms are more desirable than leaves. These can be obtained usually at no cost from the exhibitor following the show. The fresh petals are trimmed away and the pollen sacs are placed inside an empty medicine bottle along with a plastic label with relevant information.

This article was prompted by comments I have heard in the past. Conventions can be expensive and frustrating and they can be boring and non-productive, but they do not have to be. AVSA and local convention hosts work hard and long for your benefit. With careful planning, an open and friendly attitude, and a willingness to share, you can maximize your convention dollar.

Are the Newest Winners the Only Winners?

Nancy Robitaille
2260 Valiquette
Chomedey Laval
P.Q. Canada H7M3E8

Last year's Summer Olympics are long over and the winners — gold, silver and bronze champions — are lauded. In our African violet world each spring, we also choose our best of the best and African violet fanciers all over try for at least one small leaf from one of the winning plants.

What is it in our natures that makes us always want what is "new?" New clothing, new furniture, new cars — and especially — new introductions in violets.

Many *Saintpaulias* from the Honor Roll of African Violets, which is printed every year in the *African Violet Magazine*, are still big winners in shows all over the United States and Canada. Yet, these plants are not frequently offered for sale by anyone, except perhaps, from some of the older club members.

If someone wanted, for instance, to grow one or two plants from each year's selection of best plants of the year as listed on the Honor Roll of African Violets, where could they be found?

A few of the best plants in 1981 were 'Jason' (Maas), 'Mark' (Maas) and 'Tommie Lou' (Oden), could still win Best in Class at affiliated shows; in fact, 'Mark' still wins Best in Show a few times a year.

In 1982, just 11 years ago, 'Winter Grape' (Fredette), 'Little Jim' (Maas), 'Pink 'n Ink' (Lyon) were all constant winners — even at conventions.

What a different story it is with 'Beginner's Luck' (Pritchett). This little plant has been winning all kinds of awards since its introduction.

Now the year 1984, brought on quite a few oldies which have retained their popularity. There's 'Optimara Colorado' (Holtkamp), 'Granger's Wonderland' (Granger), 'Ms Pretty' (Anderson), 'Silver Lining' (Fredette), 'Snowy Trail' (Lyon), and the very well known 'Tiger' (Fredette). Most of these are still on the tables in show rooms across the land.

Some beauties appeared in 1985 with 'Autumn Honey' (Groeneman), 'Black Ace' (Nadeau), 'Irish Angel' (Annalee), 'Something Special' (Nadeau), and 'Swamp Fever' (Sisk). In this year's crop of goodies, leaves became huge — about the

size of a woman's hand. Some of these plants win Best in Show time and time again.

By 1986 we were growing 'Chris Leppard' (Maas), 'Fisher's Leone' (E. Fisher), 'Lady Baltimore' (Fredette), 'Marie Knoblock' (Sisk), 'Optimara Nevada' (Holtkamp), 'Optimara New Mexico' (Holtkamp), 'Spanish Moss' (Sisk), and the outstanding 'Snuggles' (Lyon), which continues to win Best in Show, in spite of its small size.

Then in 1987, 'Granger's Desert Dawn' (Eyerdom) came along with another winner — 'Optimara Hawaii' (Holtkamp), as blue as the ocean surrounding the islands. And then came 'Winner-green' (Pittman), whose winning aspects were written in its name.

The following year, 1988, brought 'Camelot Pink' (Eyerdom), 'Crystallaire' (Eyerdom), 'Granger's Valencia' (Eyerdom), and 'Trail Along' (Lyon).

'Anna Kreeck' (Trent) won Best in Show many times, as did these in 1989: 'Kiwi Dazzle' (Snell) was an instant success, coming from Australia; 'Wrangler's Dixie Celebration' (Smith) has won Best in Show many times.

Then, moving to 1990, 'Boca Grande' (Williams) and the following, were big winners: 'Emilie Savage' (Eyerdom), 'Hart's Snow White' (Hart), 'Melody Kimi' (Sunnyside), 'Pay Dirt' (Tracy), 'Wrangler's Pink Patches' (Smith) ...

... and in 1991, 'China Pink' (Fredette), 'Mickey Mouse' (Inpijn), 'Nortex's Snowfrill Haven' (Johnson), 'Nortex's Snowkist Haven' (Johnson), 'Precious Pink' (Pittman) — don't be without it — and 'Snow Rose' (Whitaker).

It is an honor to be on the Honor Roll of African Violets. Each variety must have appeared on the Best Varieties list for five consecutive years.

When you are buying leaves or plants, look for these names first. If they are not available, ask other members for a leaf.

Any one of the aforementioned plants will give you a delightful experience in raising African violets, whether or not you grow to show; however, taking them to show will certainly add to your pleasure.



MIDLAND VIOLETS
White Bear Lake, Minnesota

Top row, l to r: Ness' Mini Sota and Sugar Bear Blues
Middle row, l to r: Ness' Firefly, Ness' Sno Fun and Ness' Angel Face
Bottom row, l to r: Ness' Cranberry Swirl and Addie Lou Harris



mini-tidbits

FLORENCE NAYLOR
2647 Harbor Boulevard
Ventura, CA 93001

My mail bag brings interesting letters. I recently received one from a Russian woman, Natalia Puminova, who has a small collection of African violets in Moscow. One day she happened upon some *African Violet* magazines in the library, dated through 1991. With the aid of a dictionary, and remembering her English, she read and learned about our hobby. To date, she has only grown the standard plants, but is interested in expanding to miniatures and semiminiatures. Would anyone out there be interested in sending her some seeds? Seeds should get through the mail with the least amount of damage and the greatest possibilities of surviving adverse weather conditions during transit. If you are interested in responding to her request for seeds, drop me a line and I will send you her address. The Russian alphabet has more letters than ours and is difficult to duplicate in the AVM. She is a pensioner; therefore, she can't afford to send cash, but is willing to send stamps in exchange. Are there any stamp collectors out there interested? Her intent is to establish good parents for the hybridizing she would like to undertake.

There is still time to send in your 25 Favorite Miniature and Semiminiature Lists. The cut off date is March 31, 1993.

Anything postmarked after that date will be included in the 1994 survey. Results will appear in the July/August issue of the AVM.

I am looking forward to all the spring shows and the AVSA convention in Lancaster, PA. Just a few reminders if you plan to show miniatures and semiminiatures this year: 1) Do GROOM your plant. Points received for "condition" can be the difference between a red or a blue ribbon. Remove yellow or marred leaves unless it will drastically upset the symmetry of the plant. Remove tired or spent blossoms. Give your plant a bath in tepid water if it is dusty or has soil spilled on the leaves. Animal hair can be brushed off or removed with the sticky side of tape. If you rinse your plant, be careful not to get water on the blossoms, and do blot up water drops that remain on the foliage so you will not end up with hard water spots on the leaves when the water dries. (Allow the plant to dry before placing in light again, to prevent burning leaves from light intensity magnified by water drops on the leaves.) Repot if you have a turkey neck. There is no sense in losing three points to a turkey neck. Grooming is something the exhibitor can do to show the optimum potential of the plant in the show and receive the maximum points in

judging. You may not be able to do anything about the number of blooms or how open they are at the time of the show, but you can control how many are fresh looking or whether there are petiole stubs sticking out all over with no blooms on them. 2) Do MEASURE the diameter of your single crown plant. (Trailers do not have any size restrictions.) Remember a miniature has to have a leaf span of six inches or less to fit the definition of a miniature plant. A semiminiature has to have a leaf span of 8 inches or less to quality. It is all right to have blossoms that extend beyond the six or eight inch diameters, but not the foliage. It is so disappointing to have a lovely plant not judged because it is too big for the class. 3) Do CHECK that you have the right plants in the right classes before you leave the house. It is hard to enter a plant into a show if you left it at home or picked up the wrong one. Convention is always a time of great anticipation to see what "new" stuff we will have available. Last year was the introduction of the stick-tight bell-shaped bloom. What will it be this year? I hope you are all planning to come to Lancaster to find out. If you see nothing else, the Longwood Garden tour is really something to experience.

See you in Lancaster, PA.

National Violet Exhibition Open To Public in Mid-May

CHARLES E. LAWS

Public Relations

African Violet Society of Canada

The 26th annual convention and exhibition of the African Violet Society of Canada will be held at the Days Inn Toronto Airport, 6257 Airport Road, Mississauga.

The exhibition of more than 500 show plants will be open to the public Friday, May 14, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, May 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This is the first time in many years that this outstanding show has been in the Toronto area, and promises to attract a large crowd from across the province. The convention and show is being hosted by the Lakeshore African Violet Society, although entries of plants will be from AVSC members across Canada.

Theme of the show is "Violets Salute Canada," and exhibits will include standard, semiminature, and miniature African violets, as well as other gesneri-

ads, and a design section featuring flower arrangements, dish gardens and terrariums.

Commercial sales tables will be offering a wide variety of plants, leaves and growing materials at moderate prices.

For anyone in the hobby, or considering the possibility, this is the place to spend an hour or so this weekend. Veteran growers and hybridizers will be on hand to answer questions.

The African Violet Society of Canada has more than 30 affiliated clubs in North America, publishes a quarterly magazine, and holds its annual convention in selected cities across Canada.

Further information may be obtained from:

Betty Tapping, show chair
416-621-1549

or

Jim Toms, convention chair
416-622-5243

NEEDED!

... YOUR Columbus (OH) AVSA 1992 Convention slides (or color prints)!

If you have color slides or prints of tours, workshops, banquets, meetings, registration or the beautiful show, PLEASE share them!

These slides or prints are needed to continue our traditional Thursday night slide show of the previous convention.

The selected slides will be used at the 1993 AVSA Convention in Lancaster, PA. Slides not selected, will be returned to the sender. Those slides utilized in the presentation can not be returned, as they become part of the AVSA collection.

Please send your slides or color prints to: Jim Whitaker, 2085 Leeward Lane, Merritt Island, FL 32953

Hybridizers, Please Note

It's time to take slides of your new cultivars for the Lancaster convention. I will be doing the program of new cultivars at the Saturday luncheon. This is your opportunity to show off your new introductions.

I must have your slides by April 1, 1993. I would like a slide of the plant and a close-up of the blossom, if possible. Please include a description of the plant.

The dates are April 19 - 24, 1993.

Send your slides to:

J. R. Pittman
12406 Alexandria
San Antonio, TX 78233

1993 AVSA Convention - Update

On page A-13 of the "pink pages," of the January/February 1993 AVM, the Tuesday, April 20, Tour #5 should read "Plain and Fancy Restaurant."

In the Show Schedule on page A-1, under Section III - Standard Plants, Double Blossoms:

17. Two-tone and multicolor (all shades blue and purple)
18. Two-tone and multicolor (all shades pink, red and yellow)

Transportation to and from Harrisburg Airport

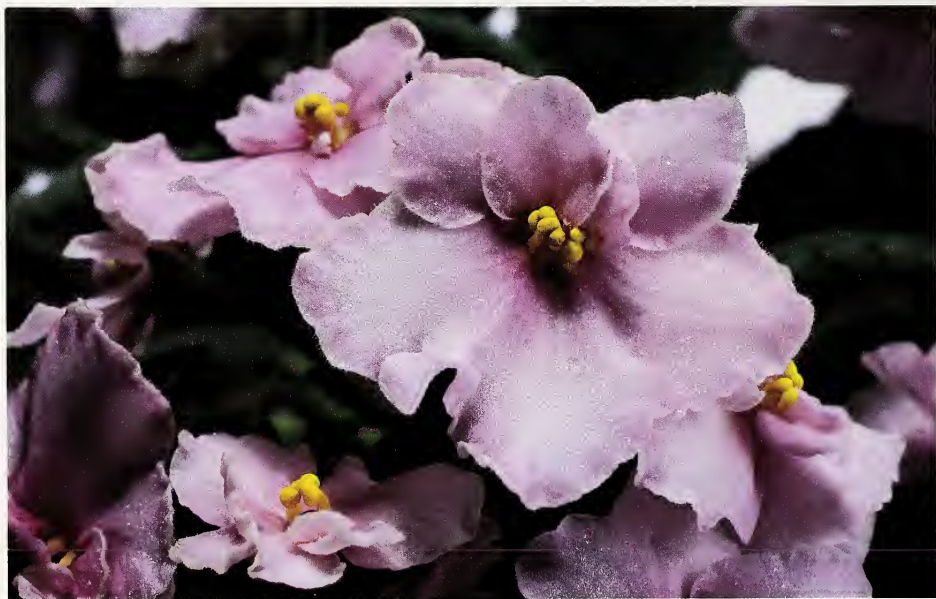
We suggest that attendees plan to meet at the Harrisburg Airport in groups of four, to travel to the hotel. One of the services available is Keystone Limo Service (717) 653-8141. The charge is \$11.25 each, with four in the vehicle. During the convention, travel arrangements for returning to the Harrisburg Airport can be made.



Judie's Peach

Judie Lalanne, Englewood, Colorado

Icicle Rose





Hot Springs

Volkman Bros. Greenhouses, Dallas, Texas

Royale





QUESTION BOX

JAMES SMITH & RALPH ROBINSON

489 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209



Question: I am having trouble with blossoms wilting prematurely, and the lower leaves turning a mushy brown. The plant center and upper leaves appear normal. The plants are grown in natural light. They are top watered when the soil feels dry. Optimara violet food and Hyponex African violet potting soil are used. I have tried repotting, using a soil insecticide and a systemic fungicide. Nothing seems to help. What is causing this destruction?

Answer: Extreme heat and dry conditions will cause blossoms and leaves to wilt. However, poor soil aeration sets up ideal conditions for fungi to thrive. Benomyl will not help unless the soil is improved using soil conditioners such as perlite or vermiculite to make it porous. The top of the soil may "feel" dry, but the bottom may still be too wet. Under these conditions, the plant can not survive. Try mixing either of these conditioners at a rate of one-third conditioner to two-thirds soil. If there are no pests present, a lighter soil may be the solution to your problem.

Question: How do you eliminate fungus gnats?

Answer: The easy way to control (notice that I did not say eliminate) fungus gnats is to let the surface of the soil to dry out between waterings. **DO NOT** let

the soil become bone dry to the point that the plants wilt. Gnats need moisture to survive and moist soil in which to lay their eggs. By letting the soil surface dry out, you are interrupting the cycle. This will help to reduce the numbers. You can use a no-pest strip for continued affect. Please follow the recommended precautions on the label. There are many aerosol sprays on the market which will work. The trick to eliminating pests is to be consistent with the treatment. If the recommended treatment calls for 10 consecutive days, don't stop after five when you think the coast is clear. Like taking medication, you take all of it.

Question: A grower I spoke to in Florida advised me that root die-back that occurs very gradually in my mature violets is due to a fungus. The rootball in a healthy, well-blooming plant begins to shrink and I have to restart the plant in a smaller pot in fresh soil. In Florida, we have temperatures warmer than violets prefer, throughout much of the year, but fungi love the warmth and multiply rapidly. The grower suggested that I drench the soil with a fungicide, but since I wick water, and prefer not to accelerate the problem with more moisture, is it possible to add a small amount of dry Benomyl or some other

fungicide to my potting mix?

Answer: A fungicide can be added to your soil mix. A product called Ferbam is used in my soil mix. It seems to prevent fungus problems that you have described. Most garden supply stores carry this product. I have even used Benomyl by sprinkling a small amount around the surface of the soil; then it is mixed in. To control fungus on foliage, I add one cap full of Physan 20 to a gallon of warm water. The solution is sprayed on the foliage until it is wet. This works well on powdery mildew, which is a fungus. Through the AVM, two sources for Physan 20 are Cape Cod Violets and Country Road Violets 'N Things.

Question: There have been many fine articles in the AVM about insects and diseases that attack African violets. All of the recommended chemicals do not seem to be readily available nor do they appear in the AVM. Some of the chemicals are difficult to obtain, or they have been banned. Is there a list of sources available of insecticides or fungicides in quantities of, say up to a pint of concentrated material?

Answer: I realize that the laws in each state are not the same for the use of insecticides. However, after looking through the AVM, I found only a few commercials who do ship in

amounts starting from 8 ounces to 18 ounces. The only two chemicals that were expensive were Avid and Pentac (miticide). The AVM that I was looking at was the July/August 1992, Volume 45, Number 4 issue. One way to reduce the cost is for your club to make the purchase and you buy the product from the club at the amount you need. Most insecticides have a very good shelf life if stored in a very dark container and kept cool and dry. Some chemicals are light sensitive which causes them to breakdown and lose their effectiveness. Your best source of information is to contact your local or state Department of Agriculture, or the Cooperative Extension Agent. These are generally listed in your phone directory.

Question: What is the cause of "halos" on the more mature leaves of green-foilage plants? Last year was the first time I entered a considerable number of plants in a show. Although I did quite well, a number of plants only received red ribbons, when according to my perception, they appeared to be Best of Class material. The judge's comments on the backs of the cards were very encouraging, but mentioned halos on the leaves. After the show, one of the judges approached me and complimented me on the quality of my plants and stated that they had noted a pattern to a number of plants in that their leaves were lighter in color around the edges. It was suggested that the plants were lacking in nitrogen or trace elements. It occurred to me that in the 11 weeks of show preparation, I used a bloom booster product

and did not realize that I should have continued with a regular fertilizer program. I currently use a fertilizer with the numbers 15-30-15 and alternate with 20-20-20. In observing the dark green foliage plants, the halos are starting to return. What gives? Halos only look good on angels and other religious figures!

Answer: One aspect that you did not mention was the pH condition of your soil. Halos appear when the plant is nitrogen starved. When the pH drops below 6.8 or goes above 7.0, a condition that is called "nitrogen lock" occurs. The pH factor is vital in soil preparation. If it is too low (acid), or too high (alka-

line), the plant can not utilize the nutrition that is being provided. This will cause tight centers and yellow leaves. Many types of pH test kits are available at garden supply stores. I would suggest that you obtain one and test your soil. Follow the kit's instructions for correcting the soil's pH. Using bloom boosters are fine if used in conjunction with your regular fertilizer.

A nitrogen deficiency sometimes occurs on a show plant that has been on a long schedule of very low nitrogen fertilizer before a show.

A few applications of 20-20-20 fertilizer usually corrects the problem.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

MARLENE BUCK
P. O. Box 38
Oreland, PA 19075

Contributors Please Note: When making a donation be sure to include the way you want your club's name listed in the AVM. Also, be sure and list the correct city and state where your club is located.

Donations received from Sept. 20, 1992 - Nov. 20, 1992:

Long Island AVS, Freeport, NY
in memory of Gert Buckley 25.00
Portland AVS, OR
in memory of Albert Giese 10.00
Portland AVS, OR
in memory of Lila Miller 10.00
Sweet Water AVS,
Hauppauge, NY 10.00

Mid-America, AVS,
Kansas City, MO 10.00
Tri-City AVS, Covington, OH 5.00
Milwaukee AVS, WI 10.00
Northern California Council 25.00
Lincoln AVS, NE
in memory of Phyllis Talcott,
a charter member of LAVS and
a life member of AVSA 233.00
Pride of Enterprise AVS,
Daleville, AL
in lieu of travel expenses
for Myrt Sisler 21.00
Ohio AVS, Yellow Springs, OH 50.00
Zest of The West AVS,
Fort Collins, CO 15.00
Portland AVS, OR
in memory of Hazel Day 10.00
Heritage AVS, Long Island, NY
in memory
of Mary (Gert) Buckley 25.00
Unpredictable AVS,
Blue Springs, MO
in lieu of a speakers fee
to Jim Britton 10.00
Violets & Friends, Piqua, OH 5.00





Rob's Dandy Lion

Rob's Mini-o-lets, Tonawanda, New York

Rob's Tweety Bird



COMING EVENTS

MARCH 4 - 7 FLORIDA — Gulf AVC show, "Violet Dreams," Metro Mall, Fort Myers. Lillian Scott, chair.

MARCH 5 - 6 TEXAS — Spring Branch AVC of Houston's 15th annual show/sale, Fair Haven United Methodist Church, 1330 Gessner (at Long Point), Houston Mar. 5, 2 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 6, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Free admission. Judy Carter, show chair. For information: Ann Miller, 713-783-7668.

MARCH 5 - 6 TEXAS — Magic Knight AVS of San Antonio's show/sale, "An Oriental Journey," Rolling Oaks Mall. Both days, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Open to the public. For information: Mary Stovall, 210-496-0545.

MARCH 6 - 7 CALIFORNIA — San Mateo County AVS show/sale, Howard Johnson Hotel, 485 Veterans Blvd. (101 Freeway and Whipple), Redwood City. Mar. 6, 2 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission, public invited. For information: 415-593-2998.

MARCH 6 - 7 ARIZONA — The Tucson AVS' 36th annual show/sale, "Country Violets," Park Mall Shopping Center (center Court), 5870 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson. Mar. 6, noon - 9 p.m.; Mar. 7, noon - 5 p.m. Free admission. For information: Barbara Fuller, chair, 602-790-3439 or Ruth Over, publicity co-chair, 602-795-9121.

MARCH 6 - 7 LOUISIANA — The Baton Rouge AVS' 27th annual show/sale, "Fun and Games with Violets," Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge. Mar. 6, 2 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 7, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission. For information: Sallie Barlow, show chair, 504-665-7958.

MARCH 6 - 7 ALABAMA — Capital City of Montgomery AVS show, "Decorating with Violets," Southern Homes and Gardens, Highway 231 North (Wetumpka

Highway). Mar. 6, 2 - 5 p.m.; Mar. 7, 1 - 5 p.m. Admission and parking free. For information: 277-6909 or 262-6756.

MARCH 12 - 13 LOUISIANA — Top Choice AVS' 21st annual show/sale, "Violets: A Family Affair," Pierremont Mall, 4801 Line Ave., Shreveport. Mar. 12, 1 - 7 p.m.; Mar. 13, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For information: Vivian Kennedy, 318-687-0127 or Ruby Parker, 318-636-4711.

MARCH 12 - 13 NEW JERSEY — Bergen County AVS show/sale, "NEWSFLASH!" Old North Reformed Church, Washington &



MARIE KITZINGER, a 97-year-old grower of prize-winning African violets is shown here with *Cirelda*. Marie has belonged to the Milwaukee African Violet Society since 1952 and has been an AVSA for many years.

Madison avenues, Dumont. Mar. 12, 3 - 9 p.m.; Mar. 13, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Everyone invited, free admission. Linda LoPresti & Ernest Di Liberti, co-chairs. For information: 201-265-4410 or 201-261-1541.

MARCH 12 - 14 MINNESOTA — Minnesota AVS show/sale, "Violets from a Country Garden," Maplewood Mall (White Bear Ave. just south of Interstate 694), Maplewood. Mar. 12, 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Mar. 13, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Mar. 14, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Public invited, free admission. For information: Barb Wohlferd, show chair, 612-426-4868.

MARCH 13 - 14 FLORIDA — AVS of Pensacola show/sale, Bayview Community Center, 19th Ave. & Lloyd St., Pensacola. Mar. 13, 2 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 14, noon - 5 p.m. Louise Merritt, show chair, 904-476-8508.

MARCH 13 - 14 CALIFORNIA — The Pomona Valley AVS show/sale, "Holidays With Violets," Church of the Brethren, 2175 Bonita Ave., LaVerne. Mar. 13, 1 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 14, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Everyone invited.

MARCH 13 - 14 TEXAS — The Moonlight AVS of Fort Worth's show, "Violets Face the Future," Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, Fort Worth.

MARCH 13 - 14 CALIFORNIA — South Coast AVS show/sale, "Violets Go Irish," South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Mar. 13, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Mar. 14, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information: Ralph Breden (310) 373-5697.

MARCH 13 - 14 LOUISIANA — Atchafalaya VS of America's show/sale, "Violets, A Smash Hit," Municipal Auditorium, Myrtle St., Morgan City. Mar. 13, 2 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 14, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission. George Ramirez, show chair/president. For information: Donnie Clement, 2323 Cedar St., Morgan City 70380, ph. 504-384-6852 or 504-385-2890.

MARCH 13 - 14 TEXAS — The State Garden Show of Texas, Austin Convention Center, 500 East First Street (one block off IH-35 downtown). Austin, Texas Gardener will sponsor a series of free educational seminars which will cover numerous topics relating to gardening and horticulture. Mar. 13, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Mar. 14, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MARCH 13 - 14 NEW YORK — Heritage AVS of Long Island show/sale, "I'll Take Manhattan," Christ Lutheran Church, 300 Hillside Dr. So., New Hyde Park (south side of Hillside Ave.). Mar. 13, 1 - 5 p.m.; Mar. 14, noon - 5 p.m. Barbara Collette, show chair; Nancy Marquardt, cochair.

MARCH 18 - 20 FLORIDA — Dixie AVS' annual convention/sale

hosted by African Violet Council of Florida, Sheraton Orlando North Hotel and Towers, I-4 and the Maitland Interchange, Orlando. Open to the public, Mar. 20, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission. For information: Carol Schreck, 813-533-7288.

MARCH 19 - 20 ILLINOIS — African Violet Fanciers, Inc. sale/display/show, North Towne Mall, N. Main & Riverside, Rockford. For information: Florise Hogan, 815-397-2000.

MARCH 19 - 20 FLORIDA — The AVS of Fort Walton Beach's 13th annual show/sale, "Violets Tour Florida," Santa Rosa Mall, 300 Mary Esther Blvd., Mary Esther. Mar. 19, 2 - 9 p.m.; Mar. 20, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission.



GREEN THUMB AVS of Rocky Mount, NC won the Commissioner's Award and a Blue Ribbon for Best in Show at the 1992 State Fair. Shown are Margaret Williams and Rosemary Sager, club members, with Jim Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture.

For information: Betty Cassell, show chair, 128 Merle Circle, Fort Walton Beach 32548, ph. 904-862-2043.

MARCH 20 - 21 NEW YORK — Sweet Water AVS' 18th annual show/sale, "101 Years of Violets," West Sayville Fire Department Auditorium, Montauk Highway, West Sayville. Mar. 20, 2 - 5 p.m.; Mar. 21, noon - 5 p.m. Pat Taylor, show chair. Admission: donation. For information: 516-589-2724.

MARCH 20 - 21 TEXAS — The Moonlight AVS and The Fort Worth AVS' sale, Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, Fort Worth.

MARCH 20 - 21 TEXAS — The First Austin AVS show/sale, "African Violets in Fantasy Land," Austin Area Garden Center, Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin. Both days, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission. For information: Mary Beale, show chair, 512-453-2732.

MARCH 20 - 21 TEXAS — The Fort Worth AVS' 29th annual show, "Violets Around the World," Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Garden Dr., Fort Worth. Mar. 20, 1 - 4 p.m.; Mar. 21, 1 - 4 p.m. Free admission. Joanne Burger, president; Alex Early, show chair.

MARCH 20 - 21 CALIFORNIA — San Joaquin AVS show/sale, "Violets in Fairy Tale Land," Sherwood Mall, 5308 Pacific Ave., Stockton. Mar. 20, noon - 6:30 p.m.; Mar. 21, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission, public invited. For information: Mary Lloyd, show chair, 209-368-2336.

MARCH 25 - 27 TEXAS — First AVS of Dallas show/sale, Richardson Square Mall, Plano and Belt Line, Richardson. Sale hours: Mar. 25 - 27, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Show hours, Mar. 26, noon - 10 p.m.; Mar. 27, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Public invited, free admission. For information: 214-278-0389.

MARCH 26 - 27 MISSOURI — M-K-O AVS show, "Rainbow of Violets," 502 Pearl, Joplin. 11 a.m.



NASA Area AVS member, Onalee McEwen won 2nd Best of Show at the Lone Star AV Council Convention/Show with *Optimara Little Amethyst*.



BEST OF SHOW at the Lone Star African Violet Council's convention/show was Gerri Golns of the Houston Study Club with *Party Print*.

- 4 p.m. Debra Foster and Doris Carson, co-chairs.

MARCH 26 - 27 NEW JERSEY

— Union County Chapter's show/sale, "40th Anniversary Memories," All Saints Episcopal Church, 599 Park Ave., Scotch Plains. Mar. 26, 6 - 9 p.m.; Mar. 27, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission and parking. Chris Brenner, chair, 908-254-8520.

MARCH 26 - 27 TEXAS

— First AVS of Denton's show/sale, "Violets Score in Musicals," First Presbyterian Church, 1114 West University, Denton. Mar. 26, 1:30 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 27, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MARCH 26 - 28 TENNESSEE

— Bluff City AVC show/sale, "Monopoly of Violets," Oak Court, 4465 Poplar Ave., Memphis. Mar. 26 & 27, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Mar. 28, 1 - 5 p.m. For information: Kathy Hildebrand, president, 901-386-0210.

MARCH 26 - 28 MINNESOTA

— North Star AV Council show/sale, "Bon Appetit with Violets," Northtown Mall, Hwy. 10 & University Ave. N., Blaine. Open during

mall hours, public is invited. Marcia Prince and Ruth Bann, co-chairs.

MARCH 27 CONNECTICUT

— The Windsor AVS show/sale, "Adventures in Nature," Windsor Public Library, 323 Broad St., Windsor. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Public is welcome, free admission. For information: Vivian Hiltz, 237 E. Robbins Ave., Newton 06111, ph. 203-666-3573.

MARCH 27 ALABAMA

— Early Bird VC of Birmingham workshop/sale, Hodges Room, Botanical Gardens. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission and parking. For information: Jeri Whitlock, 205-854-9978.

MARCH 27 - 28 MICHIGAN

— Border Cities AVC's 41st annual show/sale, "Carnival of Violets," St. James Church, 241 Pearson St. (between 8 & 9 Mile roads, west off Woodward), Ferndale. Both days, noon - 5 p.m. Donation - 75¢. Adaline Nathan, 313-474-0075; Ellen Platz, 313-278-5030.

MARCH 27 - 28 OREGON

— Portland AVS show/sale,

Russellville Grange Hall, 121 N. E. Prescott St. (behind Oregon Craft, which is on 122nd Ave.). Both days, 1 - 5 p.m. \$1 admission. For information: Jeanette Florke, president, 26185 S. Hillock Burn Rd., Estacada 97023, ph. 503-630-7790.

MARCH 27 - 28 COLORADO

— Rocky Mountain AV Council's show/sale, "Violet Elegance," Denver Botanic Gardens, John Mitchell Hall, 1005 York St., Denver. Mar. 27, 1 - 4 p.m.; Mar. 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$3 admission / \$1.50 for seniors. Shirley Mitchell, show chair, 303-482-7486.

MARCH 27 - 28 ARKANSAS

— Greenthumb AVS of Fayetteville's show, "From the Heart with Violets," Northwest Arkansas Mall, Fayetteville. Mar. 27, 1 - 9 p.m.; Mar. 28, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Free admission. Charlotte Jenkins, show chair.

MARCH 27 - 28 DELAWARE

— Delaware AVS show/sale, "Fiesta of Violets," Christiana Mall (off I-95), Newark. Mar. 27, 1:30 - 9:30 p.m.; Mar. 28, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Bessie Pyle, show chair, 302-475-3765.

APRIL 1 - 3 TEXAS

— Alpha AVS of Dallas show/sale, Olla Podrida, 12215 Cort Rd., Dallas. Apr. 1, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Apr. 2 & 3, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Show hours, Apr. 2, noon - 6 p.m. and Apr. 3, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the exhibit hall. For information: Grace Davis, 214-278-0389.

APRIL 2 - 3 NEW JERSEY

— Central Jersey AVS show/sale, "Violet Jewels," First Presbyterian Church, Rt. 34, Matawan. Apr. 2, 3 - 9 p.m.; Apr. 3, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information: Janice Murasko, 908-821-8641.

APRIL 2 - 3 VIRGINIA

— The Richmond AVS show/sale, "A Festival of Violets," Azalea Mall, Brook Rd. and Azalea Ave. Apr. 2, 2 - 9 p.m.; Apr. 3, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sales table open at 10 a.m., Apr. 2. For information: Barbara Peterson, 560-0967.



AWARD winners at a recent Silvermine African Violet Society show, Westport, CT are: Julie Ostrander, 2nd best AVSA collection, *Lela Marie*, *Something Special*, *Suncoast Paisley Print*, best variegated, *Lela Marie*, Lynn Wallach, best AVSA collection, *Everdina*, *Optimara Little Amethyst*, *Optimara Rose Quartz*, best in show, *Milky Way Trail*, 2nd best in show, *Call Me Friend*, best miniature, *Everdina*, best interpretive plant arrangement, Liz Skaleski, best first time entry, Sylvia Siegel, best semiminature, *Magic Blue*. The theme for the show was "All Things Bright and Beautiful."

APRIL 2 - 3 FLORIDA — Sun-coast AVS display/sale, "Joy of Easter," Parish Hall of St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 3734 34th St. S., St. Petersburg. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission.

APRIL 2 - 3 TEXAS — First AVS of San Antonio show/sale, North Star Mall. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., both days. Public cordially invited.

APRIL 2 - 4 TENNESSEE — Memphis AVS show/sale, "Violets Stroll Memory Lane," Memphis Botanic Garden, Goldsmith Civic Garden Center, 750 Cherry Road, Memphis 38117. Ann Shirley, show chair.

APRIL 2 - 4 GEORGIA — Master City AV & Gesneriad Society will host the Georgia State African Violet Council annual state show, "Baskets of Violets," Augusta Mall, Augusta, mall hours. For information: Sharon Miles, 706-592-4274.

APRIL 3 BRITISH COLUMBIA — The Vancouver AVC's 33rd annual show/sale, Floral Hall, Van Dusen Botanical Gardens, West 37th Ave. & Oak St., Vancouver, B. C. Canada. Noon - 5 p.m. \$1.00 admission. For information: Ann Moser, show chair, 604-734-0949.

APRIL 3 - 4 NEW YORK — The Long Island AVS' 39th annual show, "Extra, Extra, Read All About It," Rockville Centre Recreation & Community Center, 111 Oceanside Rd., Rockville Centre. Apr. 3, 2 - 6 p.m.; Apr. 4, noon - 5 p.m. Dolores O'Sullivan, 246-28 Deepdale Ave., Douglaston, and Frances Bermann, 409 McKinley St., West Hempstead 11552, show co-chairs.

APRIL 3 - 4 IOWA — Evening AVC of Des Moines show/sale, "Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow with African Violets," Des Moines Botanical Center, 909 East River Dr. Both days, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the exhibit hall. Jan Tyler, show chair. Free with admission into the center.

APRIL 3 - 4 LOUISIANA — Sundowners AVS show/sale, "Violet à La Capitale," Baton Rouge

Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge. Apr. 3, 2 - 6 p.m.; Apr. 4, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

APRIL 3 - 4 NEW YORK — Capital District AVS and AVS of Albany show/sale, Knights of Columbus, Ontario St., Albany. Apr. 3, 2:30 - 6 p.m.; Apr. 4, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information: Margaret Califano, show chair, 518-785-5058.

APRIL 3 - 4 CANADA — Edmonton AVS show/sale, Muttart Conservatory, 98 Ave and 96-A St, Edmonton. The first Alberta-wide African violet show, "Reigning Violets," hosted by Edmonton AVS, Stampede City AVS, AVS of Central Alberta and Calgary AVS. Apr. 3, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Apr. 4, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free parking, open to the public. For information: Joanna McDonald, chair, 403-430-9440; Lynette Mitchell, president.

APRIL 3 - 4 IOWA — Quad Cities AVS (Iowa and Illinois) show, Duck Creek Mall, Bettendorf. Show chair, Jackie Jones, 319-785-6024; president, Carol Boyd, 309-944-2413.

APRIL 3 - 4 ALABAMA — Montgomery AVS' 21st annual show/sale, "Easter Parade of Violets," Southern Homes & Gardens, U. S. Highway 231, North, Montgomery. Apr. 3, 2 - 6 p.m.; Apr. 4, 1 - 5 p.m. Free admission and parking.

APRIL 3 - 4 NEW MEXICO — Albuquerque AVC's 25th annual show/sale, "25th Anniversary of the Albuquerque AVC," (Silver Celebration), Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd., Albuquerque. Apr. 3, 2 - 6 p.m.; Apr. 4, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free to the public. Rae Mortensen, show chair.

APRIL 3 - 4 TEXAS — NASA Area AVS' 17th annual show/sale, "Violets on Broadway," Webster Civic Center, 311 Pennsylvania, Webster. Apr. 3, 2 - 5 p.m.; Apr. 4, noon - 5 p.m. Public invited. Onalee McEwen, show chair.

APRIL 3 - 4 CALIFORNIA —

Capital City AVS' 40th annual show/sale, "Violets in Toyland," Sacramento Garden Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (located between E and H streets). Apr. 3, 2 - 6 p.m.; Apr. 4, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Public invited, free admission. Barbara Elkin, show chair, 916-878-0505.

APRIL 7 — CALIFORNIA — Town and Country AVS open house, display/sale, Trinity Episcopal Parish Hall, 419 S. 4th St., Redlands. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free, public invited. Door prizes, refreshments served. For information: Pauline Cook, P. O. Box 147, Loma Linda, 92354, ph. 714-796-9608 (evenings).

APRIL 9 - 10 ILLINOIS — African Violet Fanciers, Inc. sale/display, St. Charles Mall, Randall & Rt. 38, K-Mart Entrance, St. Charles. For information: Florine Hogan, 815-397-2000.

APRIL 9 - 10 FLORIDA — AVS of Jacksonville show/sale, "Violets — An Easter Treat," Orange Park Mall, Blanding Blvd. and Wells Rd., Orange Park. Mall hours, public invited, free admission. Chris Hall, show chair, 725-1566.

APRIL 10 NORTH CAROLINA — Green Thumb AVS show/sale, Tarrytown Mall, 301 & Business 64, Rocky Mount. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

APRIL 16 - 17 NEW JERSEY — AVS of North Jersey's 25th annual show/sale, "Our Silver Jubilee," St. John's Lutheran Church, 810 Broad St., Clifton. Apr. 16, 3:30 - 8 p.m.; Apr. 17, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Barbara Craig, show chair.

APRIL 16 - 17 MASSACHUSETTS — Merrimack Valley AVS show/sale, "Silver Celebration," Grace Episcopal Church, Garden St., Lawrence.

APRIL 16 - 18 INDIANA — The Indiana State AVS show/convention, Holiday Inn Southeast, 5120 Victory Dr. (southeast corner of I-465 and Emerson Ave.), Indianapolis. Registration: 6 - 9 p.m., Apr. 16, and 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., Apr. 17. Show hours: 3:30 - 7 p.m., Apr. 17,

and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Apr. 18. For information: Carol or Larry Verrill, 10364 Orchard Park West Dr., Indianapolis 46280, ph. 317-844-2623 (after 6:30 p.m., please). One must be a member of our society to enter plants in the show. Dues is \$10 per year and may be paid at the show. William Verrill, convention chair.

APRIL 16 - 18 MISSOURI — The Unpredictable's 10th annual show/sale, "Sweet Vi-o-lets," Independence Center (I-70 and 291 Hwy.), Independence. Apr. 16 & 17, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Apr. 18, noon - 5 p.m. Free admission. Show co-chairs: Wilma Wolverton and Claire D'Allessandro.

APRIL 17 TEXAS — AVS of Beaumont's display/sale, Parkdale Mall, Eastex Freeway, Beaumont. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information: Frankie Pletzer, 409-838-3434.

APRIL 17 - 18 NEW YORK — AVS of Greater New York, Inc.'s 36th annual show/sale, "The Galactic Violet," All Saint's Episcopal Church Parish House, 214-31 40th Ave., Bayside. Apr. 17, 2 - 5 p.m.; Apr. 18, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Public invited, free admission. Claire Schirtzer, show chair.

APRIL 17 - 18 LOUISIANA — Jefferson AV Assn's show/sale, Travelodge Airport Hotel, 2240 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Kenner. Apr. 17, 2 - 5 p.m.; Apr. 18, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission, public invited.

APRIL 17 - 18 CONNECTICUT — Thimble Islands AVS show/sale, "Violets Around the World," Canoe Brook Senior Center, 11 Cherry Hill Road, exit 54, I-95, Branford. Apr. 17, 1 - 4 p.m.; Apr. 18, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission, public invited. For information: 203-481-9455.

APRIL 17 - 18 ILLINOIS — Barrington Bloomers AVS show/sale, "Violets Tour Our National Parks," Chicago Botanic Gardens, Lake Cook Rd., just east of the Edens Expressway, Glencoe. Apr.

17, 12:30 - 5 p.m.; Apr. 18, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Parking, \$4.00; free admission. For information: Nikki Colard, show chair, 708-526-6055.

APRIL 22 - 24 BERMUDA — The 56th annual Agricultural Exhibition of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Parks — a real Joy! It includes: equestrian events (jumping, driving classes, special events, dressage), dairy cattle and goats, vegetables, fruit, floral entries and arrangements, professional culinary, amateur culinary, childrens classes, professional and amateur wood work, especially with Bermuda cedar, educational displays and lectures, aquaria and terraria. Paget, Bermuda. Adults, \$5 and Children, \$2.

APRIL 23 - 25 CANADA — La Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal show/sale, "La violette salue le Biodome," Botanical Garden, 4101 East Sherbrooke, Montreal. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. For information: Colette Godin, Adv. Dir., 514-388-5079.

APRIL 24 CALIFORNIA — Burbank AVS' seventh annual display/sale, The Lab Building at Verdugo Park, 3201 West Verdugo, Burbank. 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Free admission, open to the public. For information: 818-846-1241. Laura Thomson, president.

APRIL 24 - 25 MICHIGAN — The Michigan State AVS display/sale, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor. Both days, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

APRIL 24 - 26 OHIO — The Cincinnati Flower & Garden Show, Ault Park, close to downtown Cincinnati. For information: 513-579-0259.

APRIL 30 & MAY 1 NORTH CAROLINA — The AVS of Charlotte's 11th annual show/sale, "Violets Spring Forth," Eastland Mall, 5471 Central Ave. (corner of Sharon Amity), Charlotte. Apr. 30, noon - 9 p.m.; May 1, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Public invited, free admission. For information: Betty Garland,

11500 Green Willow Lane, Charlotte 28226, ph. 704-541-0657, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

APRIL 30 & MAY 1 PENNSYLVANIA — The AVS of Philadelphia's display/sale, Plymouth Meeting Mall, West Germantown Pike (at the end of Route 476) and also exit 25 on Pennsylvania Turnpike, Plymouth Meeting. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

APRIL 30 & MAY 1 CANADA — Stampede City AVS' 17th annual show/sale, "Violets for all Seasons," North Hill Shopping Centre, 16 Ave. and 14th St., North West, Calgary, Alberta. Apr. 30, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 1, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information: Angela Collins, show chair, 403-286-5079 or Betty Nagy, publicity, 403-236-0161.

APRIL 30 - MAY 2 OHIO — Cincinnati AVS show/sale, "Celebrating the African Violet — America's Favorite House Plant," Beechmont Mall, 7500 Beechmont Ave. Apr. 30, 1 - 9 p.m.; May 1, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 2, noon - 5 p.m. Open to the public. Gayle Lehman and Alice Watson, co-chairs. For information: 513-753-1934.

MAY 1 MISSOURI — Heart of Missouri AVC show/sale, Columbia Mall, Stadium Blvd., Columbia. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Patrick Chrouser, chair.

MAY 1 - 2 ILLINOIS — Illinois AVS' 38th convention/show, Oakbrook Ramada, 22nd St., Oakbrook. Terry Duchein, show chair.

MAY 1 - 2 NEW YORK — AVS of Rochester show/sale, "Violet Celebrities," St. John's Home, 150 Highland Ave., Rochester. May 1, 2 - 6 p.m.; May 2, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Public invited. Thelma Hansen, show chair. For information: 716-544-0799.

MAY 1 - 2 CONNECTICUT — Silvermine AVS show/sale, "Extraterrestrial," The Nature Center, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport. (Post Road to Kings Highway North, follow the signs.) May 1, 1:30 - 5 p.m.; May 2, 1 - 4 p.m. Free admission,

door prizes. For information: Lynn Wallach (203-2275487), cochair. Julie Ostrander, cochair.

MAY 1 - 2 LOUISIANA — Alexandria AVS show/sale, "Weather Update with Violets," Best Western of Alexandria, 2720 MacArthur Dr., Alexandria. May 1, 1 - 6 p.m.; May 2, noon - 4 p.m. Free and open to the public, with a free plant being given away each hour. For information: Beverly Bullock, chair, 1816 Harvard St., Alexandria 71301, 318-442-2852 or Pat Vanderlick, president, 675 Hwy. 470, Lecompte 71346, 318-443-7607.

MAY 1 - 2 MISSOURI — Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council's 39th annual show/sale, "Time Out for Violets," Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Boulevard, St. Louis. Open to public, May 1 & 2, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Virginia Hamilton, show chair.

MAY 1 - 2 MISSOURI — Sho-Me AVC show/sale, "A Carousel of Violets," Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania, Kansas City. May 1, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 2, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Carol Allinson, show chair; Sandy Burns, president.

MAY 1 - 2 CALIFORNIA — Heartland AVS show/sale, "Carousel of Violets," Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Building, Room #101, San Diego. Both days, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission and parking. Nina Clark, show chair.

MAY 1 - 2 CALIFORNIA — Ventura County AVS show/sale, "Violets - Mother Nature's Perfect Gift," Buenaventura Mall, corner of Mills Road and Main Street, Ventura. May 1, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 2, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sale hours are May 1 & 2, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission. For information: Charles Alvarez, 740 E. Virginia Terrace, Santa Paula 93060, ph. 805-525-0612.

MAY 1 - 2 UTAH — The AVS of Utah show/sale, "Hit Parade of African Violets," Garden Center Building, Sugarhouse Park, 1602

E 2100 South, Salt Lake City. May 1, 1:30 - 6 p.m.; May 2, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission, public invited. For information: Bessann Swanson, 801-583-8509.

MAY 1 - 2 WISCONSIN — Oshkosh VS' 13th annual show/sale, "Pioneering with Violets," Park Plaza Mall (center court), Oshkosh. May 1, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 2, noon - 4:30 p.m. For information: Kevin Degner, 1741 Iowa St., Oshkosh 54901-6828, ph. 414-426-3764.

MAY 1 - 2 CONNECTICUT — Nautagonic AVS show/sale, "Classical Violets," Boothe Memorial Park Hall, Main St. (Putney), Stratford (Exit 53S off the Merritt Parkway.) May 1, 1 - 4 p.m.; May 2, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Public cordially invited, no admission charge. Door prizes awarded each hour. Plenty of parking. Edna Rourke, show chair.

MAY 1 - 2 NEW YORK — Pamanok AVS show/sale, "Violets Visit," St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church, Shrine Place and Pulaski Road, Greenlawn. Jane Weber and Gloria Rutmayer, show cochairs.

MAY 1 - 2 NEW YORK — AVS of Syracuse show/sale, "Ruby Jubilee," Shoppingtown Mall (Interstate #481, Exit 3), Dewitt. May 1, 2 - 9 p.m.; May 2, noon - 5 p.m. Open to the public, free admission. For information: Richard Gundlach, 315-455-2963.

MAY 1 - 2 WISCONSIN — Crosstown AVC show/sale, East Towne Mall, Madison. May 1, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; May 2, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bonnie Henell, show chair, 608-221-2050.

MAY 6 - 7 OHIO — AVS of Canton show, "Sing-a-long with Violets," Canton Garden Center, 1615 Stadium Park Dr. N.W., Canton. May 6, 2 - 5 p.m.; May 7, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission and parking. Helynn Terrell, Louise Udovich, Carolyn Stroud, cochairs.

MAY 6 - 8 CANADA — AVS of Calgary show/sale, "Violet Sensa-

tions," Chinook Shopping Centre, 6455 Macleod Tr. S.W., Calgary, Alberta. May 6 and 7, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 8, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Show cochairs: Winston J. Goretsky, 3308 Barr Road N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2L 1M8, ph. 403-282-7851 and Florence Douglas, 232 Southampton Dr. S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2W 0V7, ph. 403-253-4694.

MAY 6 - 8 OHIO — Violets and Friends Club show/sale, "Violets in Rhyme," Miami Valley Centre, Piqua. May 6, 1 - 9 p.m.; May 7 & 8, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Chanda McMaken, show chair, 1201 Park Ave., Piqua 45356.

MAY 6 - 8 TENNESSEE — Mid-South AVS show/sale, "Violets go to the Opera," Mall of Memphis. 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Dale Monnard, show chair, 901-388-3946.

MAY 7 - 8 LOUISIANA — Top Choice AVS Mother's Day sale, Pierre Bossier Mall (exit at Airline Drive and the mall is on the left), Bossier City.

MAY 7 - 8 WISCONSIN — Late Bloomers and Green Thumb AVC show/sale, "Violets go to the Circus," Beloit Mall, Riverside and Henry Ave. Shirley Streit, show cochair, 608-934-5411; Janice Kutzleb, show cochair, 608-325-7273.

MAY 7 - 8 OHIO — Parmatown AVC's 33rd annual show, "The Emerald Necklace in Bloom," Parmatown Mall, 78899 W. Ridgewood Dr., Parma. May 7, 12:30 - 9 p.m.; May 8, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

MAY 7 - 8 OREGON — Portland AVS' annual Mother's Day Sale, Eastport Plaza, 4020 S.E. 82nd Ave. (between Powell and Holgate), Portland. May 7, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 8, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free admission, free parking. For information: Jeanette Florke, president, 26185 S. Hillock Burn Rd., Estacada 97023, ph. 503-630-9871.

MAY 7 - 8 ILLINOIS — Rockford AVS show/sale, Colonial Village Mall, Alpine & Newberg Roads.

MAY 7 - 8 NEW JERSEY — Garden State AVC's 42nd annual show, "Thanks for the Memories," Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East State Street Extension, Mercerville. Free admission and parking. Show chair, Hilda Vander Meer, 609-586-1535.

MAY 7 - 8 NORTH CAROLINA — First Goldsboro AVS show/sale, "Our Tenth Anniversary," Berkeley Mall, Berkeley Blvd., Goldsboro. Both days, 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. For information: Lorena Bunn, chair, 919-747-8917.

MAY 7 - 8 WASHINGTON — Longview AVC show/sale, Triangle Mall, Longview. Virginia Bailey, chair.

MAY 8 NORTH CAROLINA — Green Thumb AVS show/sale, Carolina East Mall, Memorial Blvd., Greenville. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

MAY 8 NEBRASKA — Omaha

AVS exhibit/sale, Crossroads Mall, 72 & Dodge, Omaha. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

MAY 8 - 9 CANADA — First Halifax AVS show/sale, "Violets on Vacation," Holiday Inn, Wyse Road, Dartmouth. May 8, 2 - 5 p.m.; May 9, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Door prizes to be awarded, admission \$2/\$1 seniors.

MAY 8 - 9 FLORIDA — Heart of Jacksonville AVS show/sale, "Violets and Lace," Avenues Mall, 10300 Southside Blvd., Jacksonville. For information: 904-221-0629 or 904-757-5708.

May 14 - 15 CANADA — The African Violet Society of Canada's 26th annual convention/exhibition, "Violets Salute Canada," Days Inn, Toronto Airport, 6257 Airport Road, Mississauga. Open to the public, May 14, 2 - 8 p.m.; May 15, 9 a.m.

- 5 p.m. For more information: Betty Tapping, show chair, 416-621-1549 or Jim Toms, convention chair, 416-622-5243.

MAY 15 - 16 CALIFORNIA — AVS of South Bay's show/sale, "All the World Loves Violets," Westgate Mall, 1600 Saratoga Avenue (corner of Saratoga & Campbell avenues), San Jose. May 15, 2 - 9 p.m.; May 16, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free admission, open to the public. For information: Ruth Wasserman, show chair, 415-424-4338 or Dorothy Gawlenowski, president, 408-736-3803.

JUNE 5 - 6 CALIFORNIA — Thousand Oaks AVS show/sale, "The Country Fair," 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks Library. June 5, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; June 6, 1 - 4 p.m. Free admission and parking. Barbara Burde, show chair.

Another Kind of Yellow Invader

IOWAN ANTHA
VIOLET TOWN, USA

One might say I am a mother hen with a faded green thumb from nurturing a far out, eccentric violet family. One of my blooming clan will ever advance beyond my tight circle of culture. None will ever wear the crown of perfection, nor the blue ribbon of honor. All they can expect is parental love and care which stretches the wallet to the draining point.

The kids of my clan include the whole nine yards, like most plant families. I have that neat, slick, little honey, *Irish Angel*, who always does the right thing and eagerly sends up a flower by the time it grows two roots. Naturally, my family has a runt who needs extra love and care

for being a dehydrated specimen the nursery forgot to water.

I have a brat, too, who can't do anything right. Rotted leaves drop everywhere and flaunts a stubborn streak where it just pouts for months on end without growing. Like any parent, I want to spank its little stems all the way to the dumpster, but my heart takes over and I usually place the obstinate imp in the best spot under the "hospital light."

Each member of our clan has its special place on the four tiers of my violet table. Some bullies insist on pushing and shoving to demand a pedestal of its own. To keep the peace, I tag them

with a sign that says, "I am an orphan, please give me a home," — then I rush off the offending globs into the laundry room for possible adoption.

Then there is the fertile little supermarket blip who produces babies at every axil and even from the root area until it becomes an overflowing kindergarten.

The ultimate thrill is to see a lovely bouquet fill its allotted space on the table with a profusion of large, pink flowers floating above the small plant. Its unbelievable lineage came from standard, variegated violet seeds and ultimately blossomed into a plain leaf, semiminiature.

Two husky rebels who are

always fighting to be front and center are now pulling in their petioles and are nursing ugly sunburn spots! They are my own seedlings which I love dearly. Their beautiful symmetry and lush foliage crowned with triple, dark lavender flowers is my humble contribution to my private violet kingdom.

What a wonderful family I have!

I shudder to remember how I thought it was all lost several years ago. Some of the outer leaves of the best plants showed jagged holes on the edges. Day by day, the holes grew larger and multiplied at an astonishing rate until to my horror, the plants appeared to be shrinking.

Frantic visions of denizens of dark places outdoors filled my mind. I could picture big, slimy slugs that try creeping up the back steps or American cockroaches who scamper by the zillions when a rock is lifted and all the other nasties seen pictured in the gardening books.

This was no microscopic critter who was declaring war on my family. With cautious fingers, I moved every pot and leaf searching for the elusive phantom.

Then one day — a small flash of yellow showed between some of the plants.

AH—HA! The invader at last!

With grim intent, I took down my weapon from its place on the wall and crept slowly toward the violet table. Taking careful aim, I shook the rubber fly swatter in the surprised face of my canary. He was busy munching his delicious salad on the hoof!

Where did I go wrong? The

bird was taught explicitly to fly OVER the violet table for his exercise and then return to his cage.

It was not easy to convince the little bird that this display of

salad fixin's was not a salad bar.

The fly swatter danced the hula many times for two weeks in an effort to end the case of my disappearing violets.

Repotting the Miniatures

MARJORIE ARMSTRONG

The Violet Connection

Ohio State AVS

I like to repot my plants early in the year. This seems to get them off to a good start. I also enjoy the bloom that follows any repotting session.

Miniature African violets thrive when they are repotted every 3 to 4 months. The miniature varieties should be grown in pots up to 2-1/2". Rather than repotting the plants into a larger pot every 3 to 4 months, a simple procedure called root pruning may be used. Remove the plant from the pot when it is dry. Carefully using a sharp blade cut off the bottom 1/2" of root. Place a little fresh soil mix into a clean pot (of the same size) and gently firm the plant down on the fresh soil. Finish the procedure with a little more fresh soil at the top and the plant is all set. I don't disturb the roots any more than this. This permits them to have sufficient room for new root growth yet also keeps the roots slightly pot-bound which they prefer. When miniatures are planted in pots which are too large, the water and fertilizer may drain down the sides of the pot and never penetrate the root ball sufficiently to benefit the plant.

African violets appear to have three stages of growth:

First they will fill the pot (or tray) with roots. Second, the

foliage develops and eventually there is bud development. Since most growers want to reach the blooming stage as soon as possible, it is best to use small cups or tubs for growing the miniatures. Solo plastic 3.5 oz. bathroom cups are useful for rooting leaves and growing miniatures. These are approximately 2-1/4" cups. It is necessary to make drainage holes in these cups.

Semiminiatures do well in 3" tubs which are more shallow than 3" pots. If you cannot find tubs, it is possible to make them by cutting down tall and wide Styrofoam cups. These are easy to cut and drainage holes may be made with a sharp pencil. The 3" pot is best for a well developed semiminature. Semiminature cuttings should be grown for several months in a Solo cup size pot. You will be able to tell when the cup is filled with roots (a gentle tug on the base of the plant indicates if it is well anchored in roots). Also, when you find that the foliage is developed and filling out, it is probably time to pot this up into the maximum 3" size. Permit the semiminature to develop this way and it will then be ready for the 3" pot.

None of these varieties will thrive if they are grown in pots that are too large.

African Violet MAGAZINE

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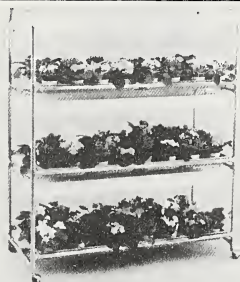


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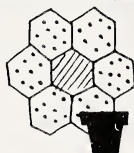
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374 Lady Hawk

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240 Candy Swirls

178 Chorale

177 Coral Magic

155 Coral Splendor

201 Crested Wave

237 Favorite Child

88 Grand Master

213 International

61 Midnight Flame

205 Mighty Fine

288 N. Tangerine Haven

248 Ode to Beauty

LYONSORANO

65 Anastasia

315 Blueberry Ruffles

68 Blue Monday

120 Candy Cluster

175 Cinnamon Candy

360 Cinnamon Girl

361 Cinnamon Spice

70 Dressed in Blue

63 Electric Dreams

145 Fantasy Maker

56 Grace Punch

305 Grape Sprinkles

211 Irish Paradise

118 Midnight Valentine

384 Peppermint Kiss

133 Purple Passion

62 Scandal

232 Shimmer Frost

298 Snow Squall

210 Sooper Dooper

167 Sun Sizzle

231 Victorian Velvet

MUNK'S

308 Apache Blanket

320 Apache Chief

323 Apache Diamond

345 Apache Primrose

311 Apache Warbonnet

181 Austen's Love

59, Big John

173 Jazz It Up

166 Rodeo Bandmaster

60 Rodeo Bonanza

214 Southern Beauty

183 Texas Fantasy

NESS

66 Ness' Blue Pearl

51 Ness' Lucky Flickles

67 Ness' Moody Blues

123 Ness' Red Duchess

332 Ness' Red Sparkler

162 Ness' Satin Ruffles

208 Ness' Sizzlin Pink

217 Ness' White Bear

STORK

170 Arapahoe

176 Dakota Sioux

187 Equinox

216 Ghost Dance

138 Itchy Stitches

119 Medicine Man

117 One

319 Pow Wow

267 Sedona

SWIFT

137 French Lilac

197 Orchid Puff

202 Outrageous

WILLIAMS

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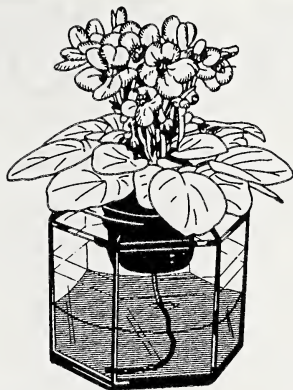
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Although the choice is ours on the above specials, please specify your preference for miniatures or standard varieties.

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FANTASY FROST

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COLLEEN SPORT

FANTASY FLAME

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Order now before May 1, 1993 and get 3 FREE violets of our choice. Min. order for this special is 12 plants. Order from this ad or any of the 300 varieties in our new 1993 catalog. Send \$1.00 refundable on first order.

SOME OF THE NEW VARIETIES WE HAVE TO OFFER:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1993 HORTENSE'S HONEYS | 1992 LYON'S | 22. SUN SIZZIE |
| 1. ALAMO LASS | 1. SCANDAL | 23. SATIN WINE |
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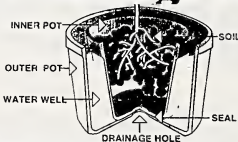
Please list a few substitutes to help rush orders. 1993 Plants - \$3.50 ea. all others - \$3.00 ea.

Please add \$5.00 or 15%, whichever is greater for First Class Shipping
Shipping starts Mar. 15, South; Apr. 15, North - weather permitting. Orders shipped in order received.

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The WATER-WELL is a Ceramic Self-Watering Planter which:

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Natural, Terra Cotta Self-Watering Pot.

Ideal For Plant Light Stand Trays. Saucers Optional. please Call

Size	Each	10	15	25	50	100
2 1/2"	12.10	12.10	12.00	11.92	11.80	11.70 each
4"	3.30	2.60	2.47	2.36	2.20	2.08 each
6"	9.25	7.20	6.85	6.50	6.20	5.85

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Glazed Terra Cotta Pot & Saucer in your Choice of Color

Size	Each	10	15	25	50	100
2 1/2"	6.95	5.45	5.15	4.95	4.65	4.35 each
4"	12.95	10.10	9.60	9.20	8.70	8.15 each
6"	24.95	21.10	-	-	-	-
8"	29.95	26.95	-	-	-	-
10"	32.50	29.95	-	-	-	-

Shipping & Handling Charges: Order Total; Up to \$7 — Add \$2.50 / \$7.01-\$20 — Add \$3.50 / \$20.01-\$40 — Add \$7.00 / \$40.01-\$80 — Add \$10.50 / Over \$80 — Add \$14. OHIO residents include 7% Sales Tax

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12 Standard starters \$29.95 Send stamp for list

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6" fits up to 3" pot

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made of leaf-green plastic, fit any type of pots
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27 NEW STANDARD VARIETIES

5 NEW CHIMERAS

9 MINI & SEMIMINI VARIETIES

4 TRAILING VARIETIES

PLUS

2 YELLOW & WHITE VARIETIES • 1 YELLOW & PINK VARIETY

• 1 IVORY & PINK VARIETY (All never before released)

Send \$2.00 for 1993 Color Catalog - Refundable on first order!

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Rob's Mini-o-lets

Miniature African Violets & Gesneriads

ZOWIE! The 1993 Varieties are here!

Available now for shipping, only from Rob's Mini-o-lets

WHAT'S NEW FOR 1993

ROB'S AVIS WINNIE: Gorgeous; dbl, deep burgundy red-purple w/heavily fringed, thin white edge; deeply serrated, great var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S BEE BOOPSIE: Fringed, sdbl, med. purple two-tone blooms w/bright yellow anthers held in bouquet above great var. foliage; tiny mini

ROB'S BLUE KAZOO: Sdbl, fringed lav.-mauve, dark tips and shadings, thin white edge; dark, var. fol.; semimini

ROB'S CRAZY KILT: Chimera (\$12); fringed sdbl, fantasy pinwheel w/white center stripes; var. foliage; striking semimini

ROB'S DANDY LION: Adorable; large sdbl, bells of pewter-white w/bright yellow anthers; black, var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S DUST STORM: Dbl, very bright pink, spotted w/blue fantasy; terrific bloomer; semimini

ROB'S GRAY GHOST: Bright, clear, sparkling sdbl, white pansies; black var. fol.; great contrast of white on black; semimini

ROB'S HALF MOON: Wow!; sdbl, white pansy w/very thick, 1/4" edge of deep, hot-pink; Champion var. foliage; striking semimini

ROB'S HOKIE POKIE: Sdbl, cream pansies w/edging of cherry-red; var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S HOT CHOCOLATE: Fringed, very deep hot-pink sdbl, blooms in bouquet above black foliage; stunning color contrast; small semimini

ROB'S ICE MAIDEN: Sdbl, silver-lavender w/darker purple splashes; dark, var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S IRIDIUM QUEEN: Spectacular; huge, triple white stars brightly edged in dk. cherry-red; beautiful semimini

ROB'S MATCH POINT: Dbl, white stars w/perfect, thick blue edge; excellent showplant; semimini

ROB'S MOON CRITTER: Unusual; large single white stars w/ speckled edging of pink, blue; Champion var. foliage; prolific semimini

ROB'S PEWTER BELLS: Sdbl, silver-blue bells over very dark, var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S PINK PRISMS: Very unique; sdbl, blush-pink w/rose speckles, then frosted rose edge, then edged white; black, var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S SMOKE RINGS: My favorite; bouquet of huge, fluffy, dbl, white stars w/excellent pink edge; fantastic bloomer and showplant; semimini

ROB'S ZINFANDEL: Sdb, fringed deep burgundy-red held in bouquet; scalloped, nearly-black, var. foliage; lovely semimini

.... plus dozens of other favorites

STREPTOCARPUS (available April 15)

Culture the same as for violets. These gesneriads bloom constantly, year-round, and are extremely easy to grow. Blooms can be quite spectacular. All of the latest Jonathan Ford varieties available.

CAN CAN: Sdbl, white w/brilliant red veining

CHORUS LINE: Sdbl, white w/med. purple veining; very pretty, and a great bloomer

CHRISTMAS MORNING: Huge, deep velvet-red, bright yellow throat; a real eye-popper

CRANBERRY: Large rose-pink sdbl, w/burgundy eye in lower lobes; very pretty

DOUBLE RASPBERRY PARFAIT: Great!; dbl, deep pink w/look of an orchid; a real favorite

KING'S CLOAK: Nearly-black lower lobes, silver upper lobes, tipped dark purple; very striking

MIDNIGHT MAGIC: Dbl, deep blue-black; lighter backs of blooms give shadowy effect; lovely

PINK CLOUD: Medium pink w/large white throat and ruffled edges; heavy bloomer

SUNRISE: Just gorgeous; light watermelon w/maroon veining on yellow throat; great compact plant

... plus dozens more!

PRICES: \$3.25 per plant. Please add \$5 per order for postage. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices.

SEND \$1 (refundable) FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG or, send SASE for free descriptive list.

DR. RALPH ROBINSON ('ROB')
P. O. BOX 243, TONAWANDA, NEW YORK 14151

PHONE (716) 695-3315

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Inch	Color	Type	Number of Pots				
Size			10	20	50	100	500
2-1/4	Wh or Gr	RS or SQ	\$1.30	\$2.20	\$4.65	\$8.50	\$34.00
2-1/2	Wh or Gr	RS or SQ	1.50	2.50	5.50	9.50	39.00
3	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	1.80	3.30	7.50	13.50	57.50
3-1/2	Wh or Gr	RT or SQ	2.10	3.75	8.50	15.50	67.50
4	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	2.50	4.50	10.00	18.00	78.00
4-1/2	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	2.70	5.00	11.00	20.00	88.00
5	Wh or Gr	RS or RT	3.25	5.80	13.50	25.00	110.00
6	Wh or Gr	RS or RT	4.00	6.50	16.00	31.50	135.00
6-1/2	Wh or Gr	RT only	4.50	8.25	18.50	33.50	150.00

NOTE: Rolled rims on 3", 3-1/2", & 4" RTs

RS=round standard (ht. = width); RT = round tub (height = 3/4 width)

PLASTIC PAN POTS

Very shallow — depth is about 1/2 the width of the top.

Top Diam.	Color	10	20	50	100	250
5"	Wh or Gr	\$ 3.30	\$ 6.25	\$14.50	\$26.50	\$ 60.00
6"	Wh or Gr	4.20	7.90	18.50	34.50	80.00
6-1/2"	Wh or Gr	4.50	8.50	19.75	37.00	90.00
8"	Wh or Gr	6.60	12.50	29.00	55.50	131.00
10"	Wh or Gr	10.10	19.50	47.00	87.50	210.00

Snap-on saucers for all pan pots, prices listed in catalog

MINI TUBS

TINY TUBS

2-1/8" wide x 1-3/4" tall	In White or Terra Cotta color	20	50	100	500
		\$1.75	\$4.00	\$6.75	\$29.50

MICRO-MINI TUBS

1-1/4" wide for	In Terra Cotta - With Saucers	10	25	50	100
		\$2.50	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$19.00

WATER RESERVOIRS—for WICK-WATERING

	20	50	100	500
8 oz. (4" w. x 1-3/4" h.)	\$ 8.00	\$18.50	\$34.00	\$140.00
16 oz. (4" w. x 3" h.)	8.00	18.50	34.00	140.00
32 oz. (5-1/4" w. x 3" h.)	12.50	28.00	52.00	200.00

Wicks not supplied.

Reservoirs without lids: half price



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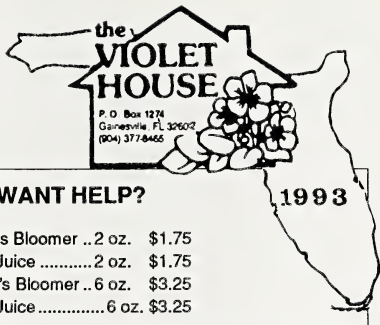
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Granny's Bloomer ..2 oz. \$1.75

Jungle Juice2 oz. \$1.75

Granny's Bloomer ..6 oz. \$3.25

Jungle Juice6 oz. \$3.25

POTTING MATERIALS

Soilless mixes and ingredients: 8 gal. maximum for one shipping charge. \$.25 extra for each additional gallon

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX 2 gal. \$3.25

mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite

lime & trace of fertilizer

FINE SEEDLING MIX 2 gal. 3.25

like VH Mix, but fine vermiculite

and no fertilizer

PERLITE - aerates mix 1 gal. 1.75

VERMICULITE - helps hold water 1 gal. 1.75

CANADIAN PEAT - milled 2 gal. 2.75

DOLOMITE LIME - reduces acidity 1 lb. 1.30

LEAF SUPPORTS - J. F. INDUSTRIES

SIZE	3	10	25
6" fits up to 3" pot	\$2.75	8.00	18.00
9" fits up to 5" pot	3.25	9.50	21.00
12" fits up to 5" pot	4.00	11.00	23.75
15" fits up to 8" pot	6.25	17.75	37.50
18" fits up to 8" pot	7.00	20.00	41.00

SEEDS

NADEAU AFRICAN VIOLET SEEDS

PACKET: Instructions & 100 seeds\$5.25

#1 Standard; #2 Mini; #3 Variegate; or #4 Trailer

KIT: Packet plus pellets & container\$5.75

JEANIE MOE SINNINGIA SEEDS:

purple, or maroon, or pink, or mini, or micro-mini

PACKET - 100 seeds & instructions\$4.50

KIT - packet plus pellets & container\$5.00

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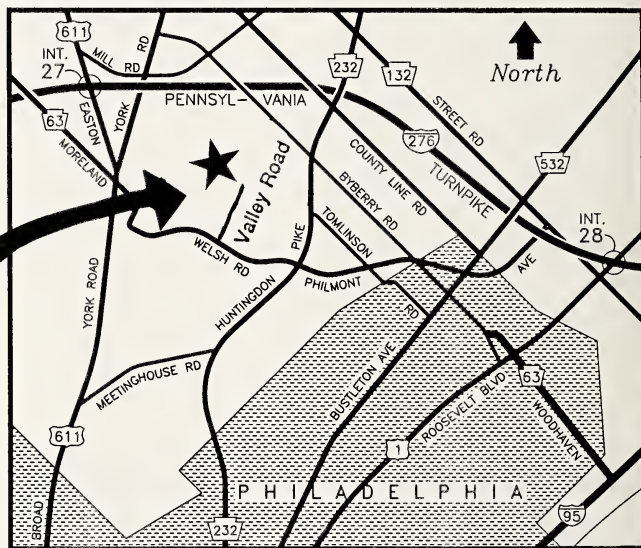
Other items listed: MOIST-RITES, OYAMA PLANTERS, Insecticides, Soil Supplements, Vattex Matting, Trays, Flora Cups, Masks, Labels, Meters, Saucers, Hanging Baskets, Starter Greenhouses & Large Planters

Follow the Lancaster Trail ...

*Our 47th convention soon we will hold,
Destination Lancaster, we are told.
To come one and all from near and far,
To display your violets and be our star.
Attend workshops and lectures, enjoy friendships galore,
Attractions in Lancaster are more than a score.
Come let us greet you, participate in the show,
It's the fourth time around for Pennsylvania, you know.
This map we present to show you the way,
To Tinari's you're welcome to visit any day.*



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TINARI GREENHOUSES — Our greenhouses are located in the picturesque valley of Bethayres, along the famous Pennypack Creek, one mile from Bethayres (West of route 232, North of route 63). From Willow Grove Interchange of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Exit 27, take route 611 South to Willow Grove, left (East) on route 63 for 3 miles to traffic light at Valley Road, turn left.

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African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

May • June 1993

Volume 46

Number 3



Strictly Business — Your Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704 - phone 409-839-4725. Individual - \$15, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$17; Commercial USA - \$25; Commercial International - \$27; Life - \$200. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a New York, USA Bank. See Membership Application on page 1.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$15; Council, State or Region - \$30. **MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION:** Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntington Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards, how to organize a chapter or membership questions, write Bob Green, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Nancy Lawrence, Office Manager, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704, 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST.

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER: Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

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BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Ruth Warren, P. O. Box 3664, Fall River, MA 02722.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, P. O. Box 38, Orelana, PA 19075.

BUILDING FUND: Send contributions to Anne Jantzen, 2725 Katrina Way, Mountain View, CA 94040.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: David Ruttram, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact J. R. Pittman, 12406 Alexandria, San Antonio, TX 78233.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Esther Edwards Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068 by Sept. 1.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs; interesting speakers to DoDe Whitaker, Convention Director, 2085 Leeward Lane, Merritt Island, FL 32953. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Denver, Colorado - May 23 - 28, 1994; St. Louis, Missouri - May 22-27, 1995; Atlanta, Georgia - May 20-25, 1996

CULTURE FOLDERS (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$7.50 per 100; 500 to 900 - \$5.50 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.25 per 100

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 - \$17.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$15.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over - \$14.00 - per 1,000

HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS,

EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES:

REVISED PAGES for Updated 1986 and 1990 Handbook - \$4

1992 HANDBOOK - \$9.95
REVISED PAGES for 1992 Handbook - \$1.50

NOTE: If your 1986 (yellow) handbook does **not** have the 1990 updated pages, you need the 1992 handbook AND the 1992 (\$1.50) updated pages.

IMPORTANT: When ordering revised pages, indicate Handbook you have.

JUDGES DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Ralph Breden, 127 Via Los Altos, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

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ARTICLES by Members & Columnists: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENT NOTICES: Send to Editor.

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PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

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QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets," The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

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African Violet MAGAZINE

Vol. 46 No. 3

May • June 1993

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

ON THE COVER — FOXWOOD TRAIL, a Ted Khoe hybrid and Best Trailer, grown by Velma Lewis, Fort Worth, Texas, and shown at the 1992 AVSA Convention/Show held in Columbus, Ohio.

Photo by T. A. Etter, Columbus, OH

Table of Contents

REGULAR FEATURES

3. The President's Desk - Hortense Pittman
4. Newsline: AVSA Office - Nancy Lawrence
5. Jane's Journal - Jane Birge
7. AVSA Commercial - A Closer Look
 - Holtkamp Greenhouses, Inc.
 - David Buttram
10. Boyce Edens Research - Marlene Buck
11. Beginner's Column - Kent & Joyce Stork
14. AVSA Booster Fund - Ruth Warren
15. Coming Events
17. In Search of New Violets - Jeff Smith
18. AVSA Building Fund - Anne Jantzen
19. A Family Portrait - Georgene Albrecht
24. Friends of AVSA - Debbie Griffith
27. Shows & Judges - Bill Foster
28. Registration Report - Iris Keating
32. Show Talk - Darryl Hoover
41. Question Box - Ralph Robinson

PERTAING TO VIOLETS

21. Variables - Byron Borck
23. Foliar Mealy Bugs? Not Me! - Peggy Payne

30. Heritage AVS vs. The Storm of the Century
 - Lillian Banchik
34. Small Beginnings - Ramarie Beaver
35. Vacation Tips
38. Trailers Under Control - Patricia Egan
43. Foliage Feeding Pests - Charles Cole
44. Occasional Pests - Charles Cole
46. African Violets by the Signs of the Moon
 - Racine Hopper
47. pH - Does It Matter? - Hans Inpijn
48. In The Beginning - Ursula Krynauf

CONVENTION

25. Experience Denver

SOCIETY BUSINESS

31. Senior Judges - Frances King

MISCELLANEOUS

6. In Memory
26. Book Review - Gary Beck & Anne Jantzen
51. AVM Advertising Rates

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Index of Advertisers ...

A

- 54. African Violet Leaves
- 61. African Violet Leaves
- 59. African Violets & More
- 52. African Violet Shop
- 53. African Violets by Grace
- 54. Alice's Violet Room
- 53. American Gloxinia
and Gesneriad Society
- 61. American Orchid Society
- 62. AV Enterprises Press
- 57. AVS of Canada

B

- 59. Big Sky Violets
- 54. Bluebird Greenhouses

C

- Inside Back Cover
- Cape Cod Violetry
- 60. Country Road Violets
- 56. The Cryptanthus Society

D

- 60. Discus Haven

F

- 53. Florals of Fredericks

G

- 57. Gefvert

H

- 64. HousePlant Magazine

I

- 62. Indoor Gardening Supplies
- 56. Innis Violets

J

- 56. JF Designs
- 59. JF Industries
- 54. JoS Violets
- 54. Judy's Violets

K

- 63. Kachina African Violet

L

- 57. Les Violettes Natalia

M

- 56. Midland Violets

P

- 60. Patches and Pots
- 63. Plant Collectibles
- 63. Planters International
- 63. Pleasant Hill African
Violets

R

- 54. Rice's Hybrid Violets
- 53. Rob's Mini-o-lets
- 52. RollHouse

S

- 61. Schultz
- 62. Shirley's House of Violets
- 52. Spirit North

T

- 61. Teas Nursery
- 62. Travis' Violets
Back Cover
- Tinari Greenhouses

V

- 63. Verilux
- 52. Violet Creations
- 58. The Violet Express
- 55. The Violet House
- 56. Violets by Appointment
- 57. Violets Galore of Georgia
- 54. The Violet Showcase
- 63. Violets Plus
- 59. Volkmann Brothers

Z

- 57. Zaca Vista Nursery

Trouble with an advertiser? Write your AVM Advertising Manager giving complete details. While AVSA cannot assume responsibility for advertisers, we try to help resolve the problem. If an advertiser is found irresponsible, they will be refused future ads.

From The President's Desk



Dear AVSA Members,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the confidence you have placed in me by electing me President of AVSA. I feel honored and privileged in assuming the duties of this office. Always with privileges, come responsibilities. I welcome the responsibilities, knowing that I have your support. I will work earnestly for the growth of this society. I welcome your ideas and suggestions as to how we can accomplish growth in our beloved society.

Our retiring President, Charlie Bollar, is to be commended for his untiring efforts in leading this organization these past two years. Thanks, Charlie, for your countless hours dedicated to the betterment of this society. We thank you for the many miles you have traveled promoting AVSA.

Those of you who were privileged to attend the 47th annual convention and show in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, came home with many pleasant memories. Perhaps you had the opportunity to visit an Amish farm, ride a steam train, or took a buggy ride through the beautiful Pennsylvania Dutch countryside. I know everyone enjoyed the unlimited variety of tempting dishes, and topped them off with Shoofly Pie.

We express appreciation to the membership of Tri-State Council who welcomed us to the historical state of Pennsylvania. Special thanks to Frank Senna, Convention Chairman; Hilda Vander Meer, Convention Vice Chairman; Kay Lyon, Show Chairman; Bill Lyon, and Bruce Turnbull, Co-Vice Show Chairmen. Our compliments also go to our AVSA Convention Director, DoDe Whitaker and the AVSA Convention Committee who are dedicated to the success of the conventions. This committee works throughout the year, along with the hosting members, to bring to us the very best in interesting programs, educational workshops, and a sales room full of lovely African violets.

A convention show is always breathtaking with the beauty of hundreds of plants and the enchantment of the designs. Some of the winners will be announced in the next issue of the AVM. Conventions are delightful experiences for all who attend — viewing the many exhibits, hearing new developments in growing, comparing notes with other members, and most of all, meeting new and old violet friends.

I, personally, would like to dedicate this year to **growth** in AVSA membership. As we enjoy **growing** our plants, let us be ever mindful that our society needs to **grow**. Let us strive together for improvements in our endeavors, with dedicated emphasis in the **growth** of our membership.

Grow happily,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hortense Pittman".

Hortense Pittman
AVSA President

NEWSLINE:

AVSA Beaumont Office ...

NANCY LAWRENCE
AVSA Office Manager

The AVSA Office Staff would like to congratulate and welcome our new President, Hortense Pittman of San Antonio, Texas, who was installed as AVSA President at the 1993 Lancaster Convention in April. We are all looking forward to the opportunity of working with Hortense.

President Pittman and her husband, J. R. (Sundown) Pittman are well known for their prize-winning miniature, semi-miniature and standard hybrids produced at Hortense's African Violets in San Antonio. Sundown Pittman is also famous for his presentations of New Introductions, which he presents each year at AVSA Conventions, and which he narrates for the slide programs introducing new hybrids each year. These slide programs are available at the AVSA Office.

The AVSA Office Staff was pleased and honored by the recent visit of Joan Halford of South Africa. Joan has been an AVSA Board Director and is presently active on several Board committees. Joan has also written a book, entitled "Growing African Violets in Southern Africa," which is an excellent basic manual promoting every facet of home or greenhouse growing. The book is available in the United States from Tinari's Greenhouses in Huntingdon

Valley, Pennsylvania.

Our Beaumont, Texas Mayor Evelyn Lord, who is a longtime member of AVSA, made Joan an Honorary Citizen of Beaumont.

MASTER VARIETY LIST #6:

We have been informed that a

few of the MVL #6 books, shipped from the office, had missing pages. If you ordered a book, please check your pages. We will replace any missing pages, if you will give us the page numbers of those that are missing.

AFFILIATE LIABILITY INSURANCE CERTIFICATES:

We would like to remind our affiliates taking the insurance, of how to obtain a certificate of insurance when it is requested by a mall or other establishment. The procedure is as follows:

- Have a representative of your club call the insurance agency, and give them the name of your club, date and place of your show.
- If the mall or other establishment also requests to be named on the coverage that is called "Additional Insured Statement," and the insurance agency can also provide that document.
- Call: Albert H. Wohlers & Company
1-800-323-2106, Extension 267
- Ask for: Angela Przyzycki (pronounced Shhuh zinsky)
or: Susan Iwan

Either Angela or Susan will be able to provide your club with the documents you need. If they are not in when you call, they will return your call.

Please copy or clip for future reference.

Jane's Journal

Jane Birge, Editor

Now that the 29¢ African violet stamp has been unveiled, I am pleased to announce that it will be featured in the September/October issue of this magazine. I have seen the transparency of it and you won't be disappointed!

What an honor for everyone in the society. I personally want to thank **Anne Tinari** for her fierce determination to make the stamp a reality.

We have recently found out that **Baron Walter von St. Paul-Illaire** was also a philatelist! I'm sure he would be absolutely astonished with the issuance of this beautiful stamp in honor of his discovery over 100 years ago. For those of you interested in history, please read the article starting on page 48 of this issue. I want to thank **Charl Duncan** of the Cape (South Africa) Violet Society and **Emille Savage** of Chillicothe, Ohio for providing me with the materials and photographs.

I really am going to make a list of the flags I have collected thus far and put it in this column so you will know if your state, province or country is represented. Now that the convention is over, maybe I'll be able to accomplish it before the next issue.

Speaking of flags ... I finally received one from God's country — the State of Indiana! A great big heartfelt thank you

goes to **Dorothy F. Rose** of Indianapolis. It is beautiful. Dorothy is a member of the Indiana State African Violet Society and the Metropolitan Indianapolis African Violet Club. Having that flag, Dorothy, sort of makes me feel like I'm "Back Home Again in Indiana."

Another glorious flag, that of the State of Maine, was mysteriously sent to me by **Mark Grant** of East Point, Georgia. There was no note, just the flag. I can only surmise that Mark is originally from Maine! It doesn't matter, it's a great navy blue flag emblazoned with a farmer, a forest and a seaman. Thank you Mark.

Ralph Seibert, Jr., 3332 Wyoming N.E., Apt. 201, Albuquerque, NM 87111, is wanting to buy a leaf or a starter plant of 'Cotton Bowl.' He had it for several years, but recently lost it. If anyone can help him, I would appreciate it.

Shirley Moore, Rt. 9, Box 303, Benton, KY 42025, ph. 502-527-8163, is moving and is interested in selling back issues of the AVM. She says they are all in excellent condition with plastic covers on them, except for the earliest six. She has issues from 1957 to 1982. Please contact Shirley if you are interested in completing your set.

Barbara Elkin, 2855 Gayle Lane, Auburn, CA 95602, is still looking for the Sylvania Gro

Lamps. She is also looking for a start of 'Lucky Thirteen,' hybridized by Willie Pritchett. I know Barbara would appreciate hearing from anyone who could help her with these two items.

Zella Morris, 2105 Hwy. 52N, Albemarle, NC 28001 is looking for early volumes of the AVM. Saying she was "too generous" in the early years and loaned copies to encourage others to grow, she now wants to complete her set. If anyone has the AVM from 1948 - 1951, please contact Mrs. Morris. Also, thank you Zella for the kinds words about my column.

And, last but not least, **Sam Campbell**, 1725 Southwest Blvd., #1114, Tulsa, OK 74701, is looking for old friends! He would like to hear from friends in California — the Orange County AVS, the Southern California Council, and surrounding areas - Fountain Valley, Pomona, etc. Sam is also looking for 'Garnet Elf' and 'Rose Triumph.' Sam is very ill, and these two varieties are his favorites, but he can't find them in Tulsa. He would also like to try and grow any of the species. Okay, members and friends, let's see what we can do for Sam!

**Welcome
New AVSA President
Hortense Pittman!**

IN MEMORY

MARGARET WETTERAU, 89, died October 26, 1992. She was very active in the Springfield (Illinois) African Violet Club about 30 years ago. The club no longer exists. She continued to raise violets as long as she was able. She was a perfectionist. It seems as if every one of her 150 plants could have won a ribbon, but she would not show them. "They might get a bug," she would say. Many people visited her and her plants. She would give them leaves to start and many tips on how to grow them. She is survived by two daughters, several grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

*Written by her friends,
Helen M. Bridger*

*542 West Vine Street
Springfield, IL 62704
and*

*Ruth Metzke
1424 Maryland Street
Springfield, IL 62702*

GLENNIE ARMSTRONG of Beloit, Wisconsin, died at the age of 77, after a brief illness. Glennie was one of the founding members of the Beloit Green Thumb AVC, and had been active in the club for the past 20 years. She held various offices and was a dedicated hard worker. Her vibrant personality and her caring attitude will certainly be a loss to her family and friends.

*Sent and written by
Cynde Lere
President
Beloit Green Thumb AVC*

LORRAINE NELSON died January 6, 1993. She was a member of AVSA, AVSM and the North Star African Violet Council. She served as past Historian of AVSM. She was an Advanced Judge and also past President of the Minnesota Judges Council. She served as past president, secretary, treasurer and Show Chairman for NSAVC. Lorraine loved entering in the design and horticulture sections at the AVSM Shows. She belonged to the Alouette Club. She had just made three stands to increase her violet growing when she became ill. She is survived by son, Timothy Nelson. She will be sadly missed by all her friends.

*Dolores Harrington
1620 Gardena Ave.
Fridley, MN 55432*

MYRA STEWART - The Springfield Delaware County (PA) AVS was greatly saddened by the death of one of its dear members, Mrs. William (Myra) Stewart, who died on January 3, 1993. Myra was a "special" person for with her more than two year illness, she was a devoted member and grew many violets in her home for our club sales each month. She also shared leaves with her fellow club members. She was our Chair Person for every show at the sales table. She was always willing to help in anyway she could. We loved her wit, her energy, and attitude in every way and she was a great asset to

our society. Myra will be missed by us all.

*Peggy Kruse
Corresponding Secretary
African Violet Society of
Springfield,
Delaware County, PA*

ROSE MARIE BURBACH - died November 26, 1992. She was a charter member of the Suburban African Violet Enthusiasts (S.A.V.E.) of South Holland, IL. She will be deeply missed.

Her Growing Gift

To others it would merely seem
A violet plant upon the sill,
But through my eyes I clearly
see

Her face ... and how my heart
will fill
With memories of her kindly
words

In verses that were so sincere;
And though she had some ups
and downs
Her poetry was penned in cheer.

In every leaf I can perceive
Encouragement she gave to
dreams,

The many things she did for
friends ...

Her interest in life! It seems
As if the good she's done lives on
(Altho' she's climbed her steepest hill),

And thus I find new strength
within

A violet plant upon the sill

*Evalyn Barborik
526 Hoxie Ave.
Calumet City, IL 60409*

AVSA Commercials

... a closer look



DAVID BUTTRAM

P. O. Box 193

Independence, MO 64051

Holtkamp Greenhouses, Inc. • Nashville, Tennessee

— An Update —

We are seeing many positive changes in the African violet world. Several of our AVSA Commercial members are growing, adapting and generally improving their businesses. Over the next few months I will bring you updates on some of the growers that I have written

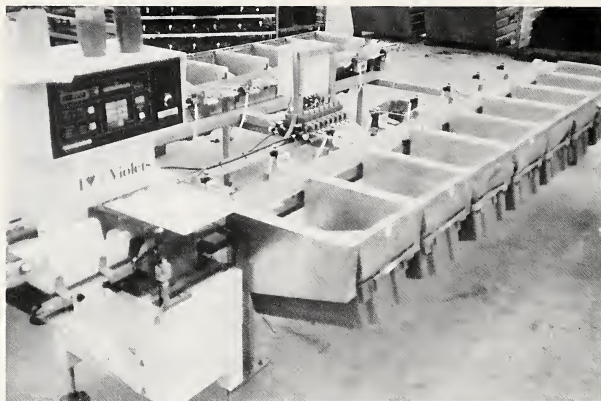
about in the past.

The first such update is on the Holtkamp Greenhouses, Inc., in Nashville, Tennessee. During a recent trip to Nashville, I was shown through a new greenhouse where modern technology is combined with Old World perfection and efficiency.

Construction of the latest addition to the Holtkamp complex began in June, 1990. Named Section 3A, the new area was completed about eight months later. To level the land for this and future construction, over 25,000 cubic yards of earth had to be moved. Because



A bench at Holtkamp Greenhouses filled with MiniGardens. Each contains two miniature African violets and an Ivy plant.



The baby plantlets are sorted by weight into bins which are taken to the potting area.

of the automated methods employed by the Holtkamps, a level area of growing space is necessary.

The new automated equipment did not just happen. Experts from Holland met with Reinhold Holtkamp, Sr., and his son for extended conferences to determine the best flow of the violets from rooted cuttings to the shipping docks. Reinhold, Sr., drew from his many years of experience and Reinhold, Jr., utilized his training from a master's in business administration with a double major in finance and marketing.

The resulting 110,000 square feet, \$2.8 million greenhouse employs 23 workers. Section 3A is designed to grow out baby plants that have been rooted in an adjacent section.

After the baby plants are brought into Section 3A, they are scale-graded. This process was developed by the Holtkamps in conjunction with a Japanese company that had built similar scales for pharmaceutical firms.

The Holtkamps use four of the electronic scales in the Nashville range, four in Germany and another four in Spain.

The rooted clumps are removed from trays by workers who inspect each baby plant. Damaged leaves are taken off the plant as well as all roots. The tiny plant is placed on a conveyer which carries it across

the electron scale where it is weighed in nanoseconds (a nano is a billionth). The scale then resets itself in less than one half second.

The baby plants are carried along on the conveyer belt until they pass in front of one of eight bins. At just the right instant a gentle puff of air blows the plant into the appropriate bin. The plants are thus separated by weight ranging from .7 grams (1/40th of an ounce) to 3.5 grams (1/10 ounce).

The plants, now uniform in weight, are carried to an area where they are potted. The implementation of this sophisticated system has brought increased production and a high degree of accuracy and consistency in the finished plants. Because each tray of plantlets starts with no roots and is identical in size, the finished plants are as uniform as possible.

The Holtkamps do not use any type of rooting substance on the leaves or baby plantlets. Reinhold, Jr., told me that he



Workers strip roots and damaged leaves from baby plants before they are weighed and potted.

felt that the main advantage to such growth stimulants was the fungicides they contain. "At the time of transplanting we use a fungicide drench."

The baby plants are placed into a mix of peat moss and recycled styrofoam pellets - or beads - or perlite and enough lime to bring the pH to 6. "An old family recipe" is the way Reinhold, Jr., describes the organic fertilizer used in the greenhouses. He said, "It is blended in Germany and brought over here."

The styrofoam pellets are but one item the Holtkamps are recycling. Pots, trays, flats and growing medium are inspected, sterilized and returned to inventory. A rebate program encourages wholesalers to return plastic trays. These trays used to be considered disposable, but now are designed to last about seven times.

Another area of involvement in ecology is with Kids for a Clean Environment (Kid's F.A.C.E.) which is a Nashville based environmental group for children founded by young Melissa Poe whom the Holtkamps have encouraged and supported in many ways. This young girl was given the Real American Hero Award by Barbara Bush on October 29, 1991 in Washington, D.C.

Innovative business people that they are, the Holtkamps have introduced several new items to complement their line of African violets. The MaxiWell® was introduced about two years ago. Basically it is an attractive wicked pot offering the advantages of fertilizing and watering continuously. The colorful plastic base is appealing to the eye.



Gisela (Mrs. Reinhold Holtkamp, Sr.) displays a beautiful white double seedling in the Research and Development Greenhouse.

Next is the MiniGarden®, a larger version of the MaxiWell®, that comes with two beautiful miniature African violets accented with greenery. Many types of greenery were tried and tested before settling on the vine that grows proportionately to the African violets.

The latest addition to this line is the miniature poinsettia,

Ecke's Lilo variety, which is available at Christmas time. Offered in three sizes (MiniWell®, MidiWell® and MiniGarden®, these could become very popular Christmas gifts, especially the GardenWell®, which also contains two white miniature African violets.

The newest series of



A worker carefully works with seedlings in the Research and Development Greenhouse.

Holtkamp introductions is the World Travelers. To date, seven cultivars have been released. They are: Berlin, Helsinki, Paris, Rome, Stockholm, Tokyo and Vienna. This series differs from past Optimara varieties in that these have been bred to grow large and should be grown ideally in 5-1/2" to 6" pots.

In the past, plants with Tommie Lou foliage have not fit into the Optimara program. The variegates were slower to propagate and somewhat difficult to ship. Generally, they did not fit the highly mechanized methods of the Holtkamps.

This has changed! The Holtkamps, through extensive breeding, have perfected a commercially viable line of Tommie Lou foliage cultivars that will be released in the near future. The new series is yet unnamed. "Perhaps your readers would like to suggest a series name," Reinhold, Jr., told me recently. So, if you would like to offer a name for consideration, please send it to Holtkamp Greenhouses, Inc., Nashville, TN or send it to me and I will forward all suggestions to the proper address.

As I was nearing the end of my tour of the greenhouses, I was told that Reinhold, Sr., wanted to speak with me. Presently he arrived from the office and offered me an inside look at the Research and Development (R and D) greenhouse. Did I hesitate? I jumped at the opportunity — for who wouldn't have — realizing that much of the future of the African violet industry was on the benches inside this greenhouse.

The R and D greenhouse contains about 7,000 square

feet of African violets and is unquestionably the private domain of Reinhold, Sr. Later I was told that he "never, never took an outsider into this special place." What a privilege to see first hand this horticulture *sacrum sanctorum*.

We went from bench to bench seeing the seedlings. This man was like a proud father and these were his children. Some were first generation hybrids and others were in the final stages of testing. We approached a bench that had about 10 of the latter. They were symmetrical with nice foliage. A huge mass of light red blooms covered each plant in typical Optimara fashion. Then, without saying a word, Reinhold picked up one of the plants and turned

it upside down and crushed the head of blooms, crown and leaves. He continued to do so until all of the plants of that variety were irreparably damaged. He looked at me and simply said, "So sorry."

He then explained to me that the color was not what he wanted. The red was not "pure enough." That action was indicative of the Holtkamp's passion for perfection — never being satisfied with things as they are.

It has been said that "Good is the worst enemy of Best." Reinhold Holtkamp, Sr., and his entire family and staff accept only the best, without compromising with good.

Their tremendous growth over the past few years is witness to that verity.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck

P. O. Box 38, Oreland, PA 19075

Contributors Please Note: When making a donation be sure to include the way you want your club's name listed in the AVM. Also, be sure and list the correct city and state where your club is located.

Donations received from Nov. 20, 1992 - Jan. 20, 1993:

Four Seasons AVC, Groves, TX	20.00
Heritage AVS, Long Island, NY - in memory of Fred Weinstein	10.00
Don L. Thornburg, Oakland, CA	10.00
Hi Hopes AVC, St. Louis, MO	5.00
Amethyst AVC, St. Louis, MO	10.00
Margaret Scott AVS, Champaign-Urbana, IL	
in lieu of a speaker's fee for Val Anderson	25.00
Columbus AVS, OH	25.00
Margaret Scott AVS, Champaign-Urbana, IL	
in memory of Mrs. Amanda Gordon, a charter member	
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BEGINNERS COLUMN

KENT & JOYCE STORK
2501 East 23rd Avenue
Fremont, Nebraska 68025



BLUE RIBBONS??

A Beginner's Guide to Judging

Do you grow blue-ribbon violets? Are you pleased with how your violets are looking? Isn't this the same thing? No, not unless you are familiar with the standards set by The African Violet Society of America. It is sometimes hard for beginners to realize that a full head of bloom does not equal blue ribbons. There are other factors, besides blooming, that make a plant a winner.

For first-time readers of this magazine, it is obvious that one of the major concerns of AVSA is its supervision of violet shows in which plants are judged for their quality. AVSA carefully watches the administration of shows and the skills of the judges involved. A primary goal of the society is to educate the public regarding African violets and it deems shows and merit judging to be excellent tools in the education process.

What if you have no intention or opportunity ever to exhibit a plant for judging? Can these standards help you grow better violets? Yes! When you evaluate your own violets against the standards used for judging show violets, you can work to improve

your horticultural shortcomings and grow even better plants. There is very little else in the world that can rival the simple beauty of a well-grown violet.

THE SCALE OF POINTS

In order to make judging consistent, a scale of points was designed to help judges look at all aspects of each plant. This scale allows the greatest majority of points for the appearance of the plant; although, it also does allow a few points for being true to the variety. The scale of points for judging most African violets is:

Symmetry	
or leaf pattern.....	25 points
Condition	
(cultural	
perfection)	25 points
Quantity of bloom	25 points
Size and type	
of blossom	15 points
Color	10 points

Presumably, only a perfect violet could ever receive 100 points. The perfect violet is a very rare item! Do notice that there are no points for extreme size. A perfect violet could be

less than 6 inches across; it could be 12 inches across; it could be 24 inches across. Only when all other factors are even, when plants are tied in point scoring, is the nod given to the larger plant.

So, choose your best violet, and let's judge it!

SYMMETRY

Beautiful foliage patterns greatly enhance the overall appearance of an African violet. The goal here is to grow a plant whose leaves lay in precise overlapping rows. For perfect symmetry, there must not be any apparent leaves missing, and there should not be spaces between the leaves where the soil or table surface below is visible.

The perfect plant would have a very round shape, and each of the leaves in a row would be exactly the same size as the other leaves in that row. Each succeeding row's leaves, would be the same as or slightly larger than the row above it. The petiole (stem) of each leaf would be just long enough to extend the leaf beyond the row above, but not so far that the resulting

pattern shows gaps between the leaves.

Achieving perfect symmetry isn't always easy.

First of all, violets are individuals. Each variety has a tendency toward a type of foliage pattern. Some varieties do not consistently form a good over-lapping foliage pattern. Some varieties are very sensitive to warm temperatures and tend to grow long petioles which makes the plant look "open" with many peekholes between the leaves. Some varieties need more light than others to grow in compact form. Some varieties have ruffled or wavy foliages that resist laying neatly on top of previous rows.

Aside from the differences between varieties, it is common for there to be differences between plants that are of the same variety. Think of a litter of puppies. There may be one or two pups that are "show quality"; they show all the qualities of the breed to perfection. There are other pups who are very nice, but may have some small fault according to the standards of the breed; these are called "pet quality."

Finding the "show quality" symmetry in a group of plants requires looking at the pattern in which leaves are growing from the crown. Generally, the first three rows will show the plant's tendency. The leaves should form an even and compact rosette.

The plant will do much of the work in growing out symmetrically, but the grower has some responsibility, too. Care must be taken to give the plant enough secure space to avoid breaking leaves from crowding, bump-

ing, or falling. Maintaining even and constant horticulture is also critical. The plant must be regularly fertilized and watered, and the light and temperature must be consistently correct. Overhead light, such as fluorescent tubes, will significantly improve symmetry.

To judge the symmetry, take off up to three points each for gaps between leaves, for changes in leaf patterns and for each leaf that is obviously missing.

How many points did you get for symmetry? Could you improve that score immediately by removing one leaf or even a row or two of leaves?

CONDITION

Condition, or cultural perfection, is the term used to describe the quality of the horticulture. Mistakes in growing are reflected in the appearance of the plant. Some of these are easily remedied in a few minutes.

One of the easily-corrected problems of condition is dust or debris on the leaves. Plants can be washed at the sink under a very gentle flow of tepid water, being very careful to keep water away from the center crown. Very dirty plants benefit from being misted with a soapy solution (a few drops of dish detergent in a quart of water) and then rinsed. Blot the leaf surface and keep the plant out of direct sunlight until the moisture has evaporated. In some cases, brushing with a soft brush (like a make-up brush) will remove cat hair, light dust, and other debris on the leaves. This brushing should be done from the center of the plant outward.

Another easily correctable fault is leaving stubs of removed leaves and bud stems. These need to be removed completely. It is a good policy to avoid letting these rot away, as they can allow fungus or bacteria to enter the plant. A dull pencil point, a nut pick, or even a dentist's cleaning tool can be used to prod these away. Along these same lines, any dead or fading flowers and any flowers with seed pods should be removed.

Young violets have smaller leaves than mature plants. As the plant ages, the baby leaves do not continue to increase in size. This is why small leaves can often be found growing under larger leaves. These leaves are not necessary to the plant's energy-making system and should be removed. At the same time, remove any leaves that are faded and tired looking.

A violet should be in a pot that is correctly sized to the span of the foliage. A general rule is that the pot diameter should be about one-third of the diameter of the foliage. No rules govern how deep the pot should be, but most good growers feel that pots that are about four inches deep (or less) are best. Violets have shallow roots.

A neck between the bottom row of leaves and the soil is a sign of horticultural neglect. A neck of one or two inches can be buried by trimming away enough from the bottom of the soil ball to sink the plant lower into the same pot. Follow the rules of the paragraph above, if you are tempted to increase the pot size to bury the neck. (If the neck is longer than two inches, it would be wise to refer to the Beginner's Column in the No-

vember/December 1992 issue of this magazine for a complete explanation.)

Some condition problems are irreversible. Cracks, mars, and bruises on the leaves can't be hidden, except to remove the entire leaf. Removing the leaf might ruin the symmetry. Exhibitors learn to compute which fault will cause a bigger point deduction and act accordingly. Giving plants safe and adequate space where they are not crowded or subject to other injuries, and handling the plants with care when they must be picked up, is critical to avoiding these blemishes.

There are 25 points allowed for condition. To judge, take off a half point for each faded blossom; take off up to a point for each occurrence of dust or debris, each stub, and each seed pod; also take off a point for each baby leaf and faded leaf; take off up to three points for over- or under-potting and the same for a neck, take off up to a point for each crack, mar or bruise (little ones count less).

How many points do you score for condition? Could you improve by cleaning, by removing stubs, flowers and leaves, or by repotting?

QUANTITY OF BLOOM

The amount of bloom on the violet is very important in judging. One of the most difficult skills for a judge to master is evaluating how many blossoms ought to be open on the plant. Very large plants need to have more and tiny plants less. To simplify the problem, The AVSA *Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors and Judges* suggests that the judge should

expect about 25 fresh open blossoms on most standard-sized African violets. This would be on plants that are about 12 inches in diameter.

On an average day, there are very few violets that could stand up to this measurement! The reason that the goal is so high is because it is rather easy to control when the violets bloom. We can time it so that the maximum number of blossoms are open exactly at showtime. This is done by removing all blossom stems for a period of time, up until approximately eight weeks before the plant should be in full bloom. The recommended time period for disbudding varies between growers, and some varieties need more or less time to come into bloom, but this is a good guideline.

Many exhibitors who grow for show have learned to expect far more than 25 open blooms on the best plants in the show. It is not impossible for some plants to carry over 200 fresh blossoms. They are incredible!

To judge your plant for quantity of bloom, count the number of fresh, open blossoms. If the number is less than 25, deduct a half point for each missing blossom.

How many points do you score for bloom? You might try disbudding to see if you could increase this score on another day.

SIZE AND TYPE OF BLOOM

Now we get into the points allowed for a plant performing at its genetic potential. Each plant variety has a genetic inclination to produce blossoms of a certain size and type. By type,

we mean single, semidouble, or double layers of petals and the shape of the blossom, such as pansy (two smaller upper lobes) or star (five evenly sized lobes). If there are blossoms on the plant which are not correct for the variety, it is a fault, and points should be deducted. Remember the puppies? The plants that vary are "pet quality" and shouldn't score highly in competition.

It may be obvious to some, but if your plant does not have a variety name attached to it, it is "pet quality." No puppy, without Kennel Club papers, gets to be entered in a poodle show, regardless of how much it looks like a poodle. No papers, no show! Learn to keep the violet with its name.

To judge for correct size and type of blossom requires lots of experience and a good book. A good judge needs to know how the variety is supposed to grow and bloom. In order to help judges, AVSA publishes a *Master Variety List* that describes many of the varieties currently being cultivated.

In addition, good judges also try to grow many plants to get experience, and frequently visit shows and speak with other growers about their favorite violet varieties.

Unless you are able to compare your plant's blossom with other plants of the same variety, do not deduct points here unless the blossoms are not consistently the same size or type on your one plant.

You should be able to have all 15 points on size and type of blossom, but if you decide to enter a show, you must verify that the plant is blooming true.

COLOR OF BLOSSOM

This is another set of points awarded for blooming true to the variety's genetic code. The blossom color must conform to the variety color description in the *Master Variety List*.

Sometimes African violets may bloom in colors that are faded or are not the intensity of color expected for those varieties. Improper temperatures and light or poor fertilization are the most common causes.

Sometimes, varieties will show signs of mutation (or sporting) by putting up a blossom stem that is entirely different from the other blossoms on the plant. This is especially true of bi-color plants and fantasies (blossoms that are speckled). This is a fault which costs one-half point per wrong-color blossom.

Again, you can have the full 10 points unless you can see an inconsistency in blossom color or know that it is not blooming the color that it is supposed to. Learn to shop for plants that are blooming true. Avoid the novelty of a plant which has blossom stems that carry different colors. It's interesting, but it's a "pet."

UNFORGIVABLE SHOW FAULTS

Before we add up your score, take another look at your plant. If it has evidence of insects or disease, it is not allowed to be judged. In a violet show, this protects other exhibitors' plants from being exposed to such problems.

You also may not judge if the violet has suckers or secondary plants growing between the leaves. Except for trailing types, violets that are judged must be

single crowned! If suckers are removed by prodding them with a dull pencil point, or other sucker plucker, when only four leaves are evident, they can be easily controlled. Well-developed suckers must be removed for the good of the plant, but doing such may significantly damage the symmetry. It is best to keep a close eye on your plants and to remove small suckers before they begin to distort the growth pattern.

YOU'RE A WINNER

Now total the score for each of the five areas. If the total score is above 90 points, the plant deserves a blue ribbon. If it scores from 80 to 89, it would earn a red ribbon; and 70 to 79 points would score a white ribbon. Below 70 points earns no award.

All these numbers may seem intimidating, and you may tend to be overly critical (most novice judges are). AVSA judges work in panels of three at shows, which helps them to make balanced decisions. You might find that it would be helpful to invite a violet friend over so that you could work together evaluating the quality of your plants.

If you followed our suggestions, you probably noticed that as you fixed some of the correctable problems to increase your score, you also got a prettier plant.

There is a real joy in judging your plants against the scale of points. It will raise your expectations of your plants, and higher standards result in higher quality. Maybe this judging primer will even lead you into attending a judging school or entering a violet show. You

wouldn't regret it.

Don't worry if you don't score high today. Set your goals to improve, ask questions to find out more, and keep reading this column!

(Note: Both of the manuals referred to in this column, *The AVSA Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges* and *Master Variety List*, are available from the AVSA office. See the inside front cover for more information.)

AVSA Booster Fund

RUTH WARREN
P. O. Box 3664
Fall River, MA 02722

The AVSA Booster Fund keeps rolling along; sometimes not as quickly as we might like, but with a steady pace. We are working on a special consideration that is not covered in the AVSA budget.

Would you kindly double check when you are making a contribution, to be sure the address and the name of the sender is included with your donation. I sincerely appreciate your efforts and am frustrated when I cannot thank you and tell you so.

Enid Wood, CA
courtesy of plant sales,
San Mateo Country Fair,
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L. T. & Yvonne Ozlo
in memory
of George Waguespack 10.00
First AVS of Spartanburg 15.00
Sweet Water AVS 10.00

Coming Events ...

APRIL 30 - MAY 2 OHIO — Cincinnati AVS show/sale, "Celebrating the African Violet — America's Favorite House Plant," Beechmont Mall, 7500 Beechmont Ave. Apr. 30, 1 - 9 p.m.; May 1, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 2, noon - 5 p.m. Open to the public. Gayle Lehman and Alice Watson, cochair. For information: 513-753-1934.

MAY 1 MISSOURI — Heart of Missouri AVS show/sale, Columbia Mall, Stadium Blvd., Columbia. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Patrick Chrouser, chair.

MAY 1 - 2 ILLINOIS — Illinois AVS' 38th convention/show, Oakbrook Ramada, 22nd St., Oakbrook. Terry Duchain, show chair.

MAY 1 - 2 NEW YORK — AVS of Rochester show/sale, "Violet Celebrities," St. John's Home, 150 Highland Ave., Rochester. May 1, 2 - 6 p.m.; May 2, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Public invited. Thelma Hansen, show chair. For information: 716-544-0799.

MAY 1 - 2 CONNECTICUT — Silvermine AVS show/sale, "Extra-terrestrial," The Nature Center, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport. (Post Road to Kings Highway North, follow the signs.) May 1, 1:30 - 5 p.m.; May 2, 1 - 4 p.m. Free admission, door prizes. For information: Lynn Wallach (203-2275487), cochair. Julie Ostrander, cochair.

MAY 1 - 2 LOUISIANA — Alexandria AVS show/sale, "Weather Update with Violets," Best Western of Alexandria, 2720 MacArthur Dr., Alexandria. May 1, 1 - 6 p.m.; May 2, noon - 4 p.m. Free and open to the public, with a free plant being given away each hour. For information: Beverly Bullock, chair, 1816 Harvard St., Alexandria 71301, 318-442-2852 or Pat Vanderlick, president, 675 Hwy. 470, Lecompte 71346, 318-443-7607.

MAY 1 - 2 MISSOURI — Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council's 39th annual show/sale, "Time Out for Violets," Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Boulevard, St.

Louis. Open to public, May 1 & 2, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Virginia Hamilton, show chair.

MAY 1 - 2 MISSOURI — Sho-Me AVS show/sale, "A Carousel of Violets," Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania, Kansas City. May 1, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 2, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Carol Allinson, show chair; Sandy Burns, president.

MAY 1 - 2 CALIFORNIA — Heartland AVS show/sale, "Carousel of Violets," Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Building, Room #101, San Diego. Both days, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission and parking. Nina Clark, show chair.

MAY 1 - 2 CALIFORNIA — Ventura County AVS show/sale, "Violets - Mother Nature's Perfect Gift," Buenaventura Mall, corner of Mills Road and Main Street, Ventura. May 1, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 2, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sale hours are May 1 & 2, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission. For information: Charles Alvarez, 740 E. Virginia Terrace, Santa Paula 93060, ph. 805-525-0612.

MAY 1 - 2 UTAH — The AVS of Utah show/sale, "Hit Parade of African Violets," Garden Center Building, Sugarhouse Park, 1602 E 2100 South, Salt Lake City. May 1, 1:30 - 6 p.m.; May 2, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission, public invited. For information: Bessann Swanson, 801-583-8509.

MAY 1 - 2 WISCONSIN — Oshkosh VS' 13th annual show/sale, "Pioneering with Violets," Park Plaza Mall (center court), Oshkosh. May 1, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 2, noon - 4:30 p.m. For information: Kevin Degner, 1741 Iowa St., Oshkosh 54901-6828, ph. 414-426-3764.

MAY 1 - 2 CONNECTICUT — Naugatonic AVS show/sale, "Classical Violets," Boothe Memorial Park Hall, Main St. (Putney), Stratford (Exit 53S off the Merritt Parkway.) May 1, 1 - 4 p.m.; May 2, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Public cordially invited, no admission charge. Door prizes

awarded each hour. Plenty of parking. Edna Rourke, show chair.

MAY 1 - 2 NEW YORK — Poughkeepsie AVS show/sale, "Violets Visit," St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church, Shrine Place and Pulaski Road, Greenlawn. Jane Weber and Gloria Ruttmayer, show cochair.

MAY 1 - 2 NEW YORK — AVS of Syracuse show/sale, "Ruby Jubilee," Shoppingtown Mall (Interstate #481, Exit 3), Dewitt. May 1, 2 - 9 p.m.; May 2, noon - 5 p.m. Open to the public, free admission. For information: Richard Gundlach, 315-455-2963.

MAY 1 - 2 WISCONSIN — Crosstown AVS show/sale, East Towne Mall, Madison. May 1, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; May 2, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bonnie Henell, show chair, 608-221-2050.

MAY 6 - 7 OHIO — AVS of Canton show, "Sing-a-long with Violets," Canton Garden Center, 1615 Stadium Park Dr. N.W., Canton. May 6, 2 - 5 p.m.; May 7, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission and parking. Helynn Terrell, Louise Udovich, Carolyn Stroud, cochair.

MAY 6 - 8 CANADA — AVS of Calgary show/sale, "Violet Sensations," Chinook Shopping Centre, 6455 Macleod Tr. S.W., Calgary, Alberta. May 6 and 7, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 8, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Show cochair: Winston J. Goretzky, 3308 Barr Road N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2L 1M8, ph. 403-282-7851 and Florence Douglas, 232 Southampton Dr. S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2W 0V7, ph. 403-253-4694.

MAY 6 - 8 OHIO — Violets and Friends Club show/sale, "Violets in Rhyme," Miami Valley Centre, Piqua. May 6, 1 - 9 p.m.; May 7 & 8, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Chanda McMaken, show chair, 1201 Park Ave., Piqua 45356.

MAY 6 - 8 TENNESSEE — Mid-South AVS show/sale, "Violets go to the Opera," Mall of Memphis. 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Dale Monnard, show chair, 901-388-3946.

MAY 7 - 8 LOUISIANA — Top Choice AVS Mother's Day sale, Pierre Bossier Mall (exit at Airline Drive and the mall is on the left), Bossier City.

MAY 7 - 8 WISCONSIN — Late Bloomers and Green Thumb AVC show/sale, "Violets go to the Circus," Beloit Mall, Riverside and Henry Ave. Shirley Streit, show cochair, 608-934-5411; Janice Kutzele, show cochair, 608-325-7273.

MAY 7 - 8 OHIO — Parmatown AVC's 33rd annual show, "The Emerald Necklace in Bloom," Parmatown Mall, 78899 W. Ridgewood Dr., Parma, May 7, 12:30 - 9 p.m.; May 8, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

MAY 7 - 8 OREGON — Portland AVS' annual Mother's Day Sale, Eastport Plaza, 4020 S.E. 82nd Ave. (between Powell and Holgate), Portland. May 7, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 8, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free admission, free parking. For information: Jeanette Florke, president, 26185 S. Hillock Burn Rd., Estacada 97023, ph. 503-630-9871.

MAY 7 - 8 ILLINOIS — Rockford AVS show/sale, Colonial Village Mall, Alpine & Newberg roads.

MAY 7 - 8 NEW JERSEY — Garden State AVC's 42nd annual show, "Thanks for the Memories," Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East State Street Extension, Mercerville. Free admission and parking. Show chair, Hilda Vander Meer, 609-586-1535.

MAY 7 - 8 NORTH CAROLINA — First Goldsboro AVS show/sale, "Our Tenth Anniversary," Berkeley Mall, Berkeley Blvd., Goldsboro. Both days, 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. For information: Lorena Bunn, chair, 919-747-8917.

MAY 7 - 8 WASHINGTON — Longview AVC show/sale, Triangle Mall, Longview. Virginia Bailey, chair.

MAY 8 NORTH CAROLINA — Green Thumb AVS show/sale, Carolina East Mall, Memorial Blvd., Greenville. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

MAY 8 NEBRASKA — Omaha AVS exhibit/sale, Southroads Shopping Center, 1001 Fort Crook Rd., lower level, Bellevue. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information: Kathy

Rapske, 402-493-8736.

MAY 8 - 9 CANADA — First Halifax AVS show/sale, "Violets on Vacation," Holiday Inn, Wyse Road, Dartmouth. May 8, 2 - 5 p.m.; May 9, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Door prizes to be awarded, admission \$2/\$1 seniors.

MAY 8 - 9 FLORIDA — Heart of Jacksonville AVS display/sale, "Violets and Lace," Avenues Mall, 10300 Southside Blvd., Jacksonville. For information: 904-221-0629 or 904-757-5708.

MAY 8 - 9 KANSAS — Bright Petals AVS show/sale, Holiday Inn, Gold Room, 3017 10th, Great Bend. May 8, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.; May 9, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission. For information: Alvin Otte, president, 316-793-6875.

MAY 14 - 15 CANADA — The African Violet Society of Canada's 26th annual convention/exhibition, "Violets Salute Canada," Days Inn, Toronto Airport, 6257 Airport Road, Mississauga. Open to the public, May 14, 2 - 8 p.m.; May 15, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information: Betty Tapping, show chair, 416-621-1549 or Jim Toms, convention chair, 416-622-5243.

MAY 15 - 16 CALIFORNIA — AVS of South Bay's show/sale, "All the World Loves Violets," Westgate Mall, 1600 Saratoga Avenue (corner of Saratoga & Campbell avenues), San Jose. May 15, 2 - 9 p.m.; May 16, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free admission, open to the public. For information: Ruth Wasserman, show chair, 415-424-4338 or Dorothy Gawlenowski, president, 408-736-3803.

MAY 15 - 16 WASHINGTON — The Seattle AVS 40th annual show/sale, "A Rainbow of Violets," Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington campus, 3501 NE 41st St., Seattle. May 15, noon - 7 p.m.; May 16, noon - 5 p.m. Free admission, plenty of parking. For information: Austin Greivous, 282-2748 or Karen Taillie, 355-9400.

JUNE 5 NEW JERSEY — AVC of Burlington County show/sale, "Precious Violet Gems," Burlington Center Mall, Rte 541, Burlington. 1 - 9 p.m. For information: 609-877-8696. Laurel Brown, president.

Sandy Skalski, show chair.

JUNE 5 - 6 CALIFORNIA — Thousand Oaks AVS show/sale, "The Country Fair," 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks Library. June 5, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; June 6, 1 - 4 p.m. Free admission and parking. Barbara Burde, show chair.

JUNE 18 - 19 WISCONSIN — The African Violet Fanciers, Inc. sale/display, Beloit Mall, Rt. 51, North Beloit. For information: Florise Hogan, 815-397-2000.

JUNE 25 - 26 LOUISIANA — Bayou Gesneriad Society will host the 37th annual convention of the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Landmark Hotel, Metairie. There will be a flower show and plant sale in conjunction with the convention. Showroom and plant sale room open: June 25, 3:30 - 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. - midnight June 26, 9:15 a.m. - noon. Public is invited.

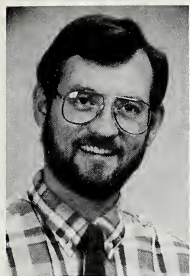
JUNE 26 - 27 ILLINOIS — The Glenview/Northshore AVS show/sale, "Violets Around the World," Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe. June 26, noon - 5 p.m.; June 27, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Randy Hillman, show chair. For information: Renée Lasky, president, 708-966-6473.

AUGUST 20 - 21 ILLINOIS — The African Violet Fanciers, Inc. sale/display, St. Charles Mall, Randall & Rt. 38, K-Mart Entrance, St. Charles. For information: Florise Hogan, 815-397-2000.

AVSA JUDGING SCHOOLS

JUNE 5 - ALABAMA — AVSA Judges School sponsored by The Pride of Enterprise AVS. Northside Mall Community Room, Ross Clark Cir & Hwy 231, Dothan. For information: Tony Collins, 205-299-3890, Rt. 2, 222 Mitchell St., Newton, AL 36352. Elizabeth Fuller, Teacher.

JULY 10 - NEW MEXICO — AVSA Judging School sponsored by the Saintpaulia Society of Santa Fe. For information: Gary Wells, Chair, 2104 Saturn Place N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87112 or Barbara Elkin, Teacher, 2855 Gayle Lane, Auburn, CA 95602, ph. 916-878-0505.



In Search of New Violets



DR. JEFF SMITH
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana 47306

Rarely has a plant changed so dramatically from the original form in the wild, as has the African violet. In just one century since its discovery, this small blue flowered plant has blossomed into a rainbow of flower colors, growth forms, and leaf types. Growers and hobbyists alike have found, nurtured, and developed numerous mutations, resulting in the thousands of cultivars available today.

The search for the new and unusual in African violets continues into the plant's second century. Cultivars that were new and different yesterday are being challenged and in some instances replaced by today's creations. We are not bound by past limitations, but instead look forward to the excitement of what we can develop and improve tomorrow.

It is that drive for tomorrow which will be the purpose of this column. Here, information will be exchanged that will hopefully lead to the cultivars of our imagination. What we think can be developed, perhaps by science and artistry will be developed. Please write to ask your questions, share your experiences and expertise, or just to ask "why not?"

Q: How can I hybridize something new on mosaic or Lilian Jarrett foliage?

A: Good for you! I think many of us would like to see new things on mosaic or Lilian Jarrett (LJ) variegation. Historically, LJ foliage has been very difficult to work with, but don't let that worry you. The trick seems to be in understanding that this trait is inherited in both a maternal and recessive manner.

Say for example, you wish to breed a LJ plant with Geneva edges (which is a new combination on LJ foliage). Choose a non-variegated (NV) plant that shows a strong Geneva edge as your pollen parent.

Use the LJ plant as your seed parent. The first generation will likely be NV, but some should show Geneva edges since this is a dominant trait. Choose the best seedling for a self-pollination or cross two outstanding seedlings together. The next generation should produce a small number of LJ plants, some of which should also have Geneva edges. You may need to grow a number of seedlings out of this cross to get a few with the combination of LJ foliage and Geneva edges. Fortunately, LJ variegation shows early after seed germination and you can

select only the LJ seedlings to grow out.

An alternative method is to backcross the best first generation seedling with Geneva edges to the LJ seed parent. This cross will increase the number of LJ offspring in the second generation, but the strength of the Geneva edges may be reduced.

The original Geneva edged parent could be any color you want. How about a nice blue, giving you a chance at blue Geneva edged flowers on LJ. Now that really would be new!

Q: Have there been any chimera or pinwheel blooms on Lilian Jarrett foliage?

A: I have not observed any chimera blooms on LJ foliage, but the combination seems possible. Since chimeras form randomly, all you need to do is to keep your eyes open to find the mutation that produces this combination. Good luck!

Q: Is there only one type of Lilian Jarrett foliage?

A: No, fortunately there appears to be several types of LJ foliage. Some cultivars have only a few spots of variegation while others are intensely variegated. The color of variegation can also vary from white to lime green. If the leaf has red backed leaves, the lighter colored areas can be

pinkish in color. One seedling has appeared recently in my stock that has tri-colored leaves. There are three distinct shades of green in the same leaf.

Q: I have trouble getting seed to set on my Lilian Jarrett variegation plants. Any suggestions?

A: Some LJ cultivars have pistils that have been partially turned into petals. When this happens, the pistil is essentially sterile and will not set seed. Try to find and use flowers whose pistils are well formed and not petal-like.

You may also want to raise the humidity around your plants. Pollen tube growth seems to be enhanced if the humidity is high. I often had to wait for rainy days to pollinate while living in Oklahoma so I could get seed set on my plants.

Q: Is it possible to get a combination of Lilian Jarrett and Tommie Lou variegation on the same plant?

A: Now, there would be an interesting combination! However, since both traits are inherited through the maternal line or seed parent, it seems unlikely that you could combine both traits together in one plant. The seed parent would already have to have both traits to pass them on to the offspring. The trick would be in creating this double variegation condition in the first place. The problem is something like which came first, the chicken or the egg?

LJ variegation, however, is partly inherited as a recessive. The Tommie Lou parent could carry, but not express the recessive LJ factor. If this plant was then used as a pollen parent on a LJ plant, some of the

first generation offspring would show LJ variegation. A cross similar to this has already been

reported with a crown variegated pollen parent on a LJ seed parent.

AVSA Building Fund

ANNE JANTZEN

2725 Katrina Way • Mountain View, CA 94040

WHAT IS YOUR REASON

FOR GETTING UP IN THE MORNING?

The thought of the challenge of a new day?

The thought of that violet

that is going to bloom for the first time?

The thought of your son on the Honor Roll?

The thought of your society's Blue Rosette?

The thought of your grandchild's visit?

The memory of the wonderful time

you and your roommate had in Lancaster?

**If YOU have a reason to get up in the morning —
YOU have a reason to support the Building Fund!**

Contributions from Dec. 1 - Dec. 31, 1992

Don L. Thornburg, CA	\$15.00
Amethyst AVS, MO	10.00
Chenango Valley AVS, NY	10.00
Anne Jantzen, CA - in lieu of installation honorarium from San Mateo Co. AVS	20.00
Anne Jantzen, CA - in lieu of installation honorarium from AVS of the East Bay	25.00
AVS of Tucson	25.00
Sugarloaf Mountain VS, MD	10.00
Mid-Polk AVS, FL	25.00
WI Council of AV Clubs - in memory of Carol Thielan, who died of cancer in June	10.00
First Lakeland AVS, FL - in memory of Mrs. Ida Ordman	25.00
Columbia AVS, SC - in memory of F.M. Clark	25.00

Total for the month - \$200.00

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - \$83,013.00

Contributions from Jan. 1 - Jan. 30, 1993

Don L. Thornburg, CA	15.00
Susan Dickstein (Salt Lake Embroidery) proceeds from selling AV T-shirts to AVSA affiliates	100.00
Johannes and Anne Jantzen, CA Hooray! Sara Anne is two today 6/9/93	10.00
Mrs. Maude Teater, IL - in memory of dear friend, Mrs. Mildred Hood	10.00
Helen Bridger and Ruth Metzke, IL in memory of dear friend, Margaret Wetterau	30.00
Richmond AVS, VA	100.00
Louise Griffin, OK	5.00
Marcy Chanteaux, MI	15.00
AVS South Bay, CA - in honor of AVS of San Francisco's 40th anniversary	25.00
The First AVS of Dallas - in memory of Margery Clive's father	25.00
Green Thumb AVC, AR	10.00
Helen Kongsted, CT	25.00

Total for the month - \$420.00

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - \$83,433.00



A FAMILY PORTRAIT

GEORGENE ALBRECHT
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Nautilocalyx picturatus

This beautiful tuberous gesneriad has been described as an episcia without stolons. *Nautilocalyx* means "Nautilus shaped calyx." *Picturatus* means "with variegated leaves." There are about a dozen species from South America. *Nautilocalyx picturatus* is pronounced nawth-low-KAY-licks pick-tour-AY-tus. Mine grows in a large glass container because it loves such high humidity. This plant may or may not produce tubers, so keep rooted cuttings most of the time. The dark, handsome, bronze-green foliage has a light-green center vein. The plant forms side shoots from the base.

As leaves mature to six or more inches in length, they seem to become heavy and droop gracefully. Blooms are creamy white, tubular flowers that, at best, last only a few days. Most people grow this plant for foliage. Sources for this plant are: Belisle's Violet House, P. O. Box 111, Radison, WI 54867-0111, catalog is \$2; CODA Gardens, P. O. Box 8417, Fredericksburg, VA 22404, catalog \$2; Les Violettes, P. O. Box 206, Beecher Falls, VT 05926-0206, catalog \$2.

Marcia Belisle tells me that she grows most *nautilocalyx* on open shelves. She recommends *N. pictus* 'Jade' and a slightly taller, ever-blooming variety

called *N. 'Caribbean Pink.'* Marcia also reminded me to tell you that *Episcia hirsuta* is now classified as *Nautilocalyx cordatus*. Since *hirsuta* never produced stolons, this seems more logical. She highly recommends *N. pemphidious*, the new one from Venezuela.

Travelogue

People who grow plants are so very special to me and I have had the pleasure of visiting several clubs during the last few months. Tri-State, our 1993 convention host club, invited me to speak at the lovely Frelinghuysen Arboretum in New Jersey. A very patient Frank

Senna met me at the airport, took me to dinner, then to host Lois Bushke's home. She grows great gesneriads and miniature begonias. Lois, send me your address.

The Nutmeg State beckoned. Wish I could grow *saintpaulias* like Marge Fargeot and Ann Butler.

You should see the gesneriads that Vivian Hiltz and Dick Bower grow. Awesome! Then, Edna Rourke, who did a presentation at convention, created the most beautiful dish gardens and terrariums. Bob Clark planted an exotic, tropical terrarium using tessellated foliage of a *Paphiopedilum* orchid, mixed carnivorous plants and a



Nautilocalyx picturatus

perky, pink saintpaulia. Hats off!

We noticed how important it is to use a glass container with extremely clear glass. Glass can distort the landscape. Our judging team also noticed that the small gesneriads, like *Sinningia pusilla*, should be planted in the container, not in a pot or pots placed inside a container. The pots were clearly visible, detracting from the beauty of the tiny plants.

Next, on to Baltimore, MD, for the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Convention, which was marvelously "spooky" the end of October. Whoever paraphrased the expression "shrinking violet" has never seen Joyce Stenger as a yellow, hob nail, thrrips.

If you want fun, plus good violets, join this group. Diane Richardson and Janet Haag are dynamos at organizing. Of course, I can't give enough praise to Howard and Marie Burns.

On to New York State Convention. Jim Smith and Ralph Robinson have joined forces to write the "Question Box" column for this magazine. They treated me like royalty and I was delighted to show my slides of the gesneriad family.

Rob visited our Pittsburgh Violet Society in February. Our commercial growers are so cordial and aim to please everyone. Bill and Kathryn Paauwe, Violets by Appointment, go to many regional and national conventions. They also invited me to Long Island, NY in the near future.

Pat Red Elk introduced me to a young hybridizer named Doug Burdick, of Rochester, NY, who brought some wonderful plants to the show.

Diane Richardson presented an excellent program on species saintpaulia, which will be covered as a separate topic. Fayanne Wagman, of Violet Venture, sold leaves of a light blooming variety of *Saintpaulia velutina*. My leaf has already produced babies.

Jim Smith has some nice hybrids, too. I absolutely could not resist 'Rob's Lucky Strike,' a beautiful pink-white chimera. Guess what? I finally met the grand Champions — Ethel and Duane. They are as gracious and caring as I've always imagined. I will never enjoy a magazine article as much as the one about them published in *Houseplants and Porch Gardens*. Until then, I grew only a few violets; those color photographs of her plants, got me hooked for good.

Now, back to Baltimore, MD, for a club meeting with Marie and Howard Burns as my hosts. Her new hybrids are unbelievable plants. She is working with variegated foliage and you will just adore the shiny dark leaves with creamy white margins. Marie has a spotless growing area.

She says that her plants must grow themselves, at times, but I do believe that she does the best job I've ever seen. I asked her for the soil mix recipe that she uses on her plants. Here it is:

**Marie Burns'
Show Mix**

- 2 gal. Baccto African Violet Soil
- 2-1/2 gal. coarse perlite
- 1 gal. peat moss
- 2 gal. coarse vermiculite
- 6 cups charcoal
- 1 cup dehydrated cow manure
- 3 T. bone meal

- 2 T. Ferbam
- 10 T. dolomite lime

Easy Mix

- 1 gal. Baccto African Violet Soil
- 1 gal. perlite
- 3 cups charcoal
- 1/2 cup Super Manure
- 2 T. dolomite lime

Marie wicks her plants and gives them a lot of room. Read her articles that have been published in the *AVM*.

Having received two letters asking me about Sunspray, which I mentioned in the January issue, let me elaborate. Sunspray is an oil base insecticide spray which is derived from the oil of lemons. It can be mixed with other compatible sprays for a rather safe combination. Sunspray is marketed by Safer Agrochem, the manufacturer of Safer's Insecticidal Soaps. To use any product, follow the label directions exactly. A few drops of Sunspray mixed with 3 tsp of baking soda in a quart of water, is effective against mildew on roses. Check the expiration date on the baking soda to be sure it has not expired. Sunspray can be used as a spreader-sticker.

**24-Hour
AVSA
FAX Line:**

**(409)
839-4329**

Variables

BYRON BORCK

1425 Ditty Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

I have been growing African violets since 1988, and reading the *AVM* since 1990. Starting with four plants, my collection has grown to around 400, including some of my own hybrids. Along my growing path, I joined a local club and am currently serving a third successive term as president. I am continually learning more about violets through research and experimentation.

A year ago, I spoke at our monthly club meeting on "The Culture and Care of African Violets for the Home Hobbyist."

I read as many articles and books that I could find to prepare for the meeting. This research led me to an amazing conclusion. Every grower grows violets just a little differently from the next person. What works for one grower may not work for someone else.

Why, I pondered, isn't there one perfect way of growing? The answer seems simple; however, the solution is complex. Just as no two violet plants are completely identical, so, no two growing environments are completely identical. Even two

neighboring houses will have different environments.

Each person who grows violets, works with a different group of variables. Some variables are easy to control and some are difficult. I am not surprised to see a variance in the same violet cultivar; such as blossom color, color of foliage, size, etc., when grown by two different growers. A difference in the variables will effect growth and performance.

Let's look at the elements needed to successfully grow violets; and consider the variables.

Light

Natural light: has seasonal changes which exposure

Artificial light: how many hours per day: 10-16 hours

type of light fixture: reflective hood

spacing of bulbs: 2, 3, 5, 10, ? inches a part

type of bulb: cool, warm, Grow Lux, WS Grow Lux, Power Twist

how long the bulbs have been used

how close the bulbs are to the plants

Pots

clay or plastic

standard or azalea

self watering - Moist-Rite, Oyama

decorative, no holes in bottom of pot

Soil

commercial mix or home formula

do you add to commercial mix: perlite, vermiculite,

bone meal, blood meal, other

how one packs soil in the pot

how often one repots

Watering

bottled: spring or distilled

city tap: mineral content will vary from well to well;

some cities add chlorine

Watering (cont.) home: well-mineral content will vary from time to time
top watering
bottom watering
wick
capillary matting
on a schedule every 7 days, when plant shows signs
of limpness, when soil is dry to touch

Fertilizing brand of: Rapid Gro, Peters, Miracle Grow, Volkmanns,
Optimara, other
fertilizer formula: 15-30-15, 5-50-17, 20-20-20, other
alternate: different fertilizers, different formulas
constant feed or monthly
how much: 1/8, 1/4, 1/2 teaspoons per gallon
do you foliar feed
any other additives: Superthrive (how many drops per gallon),
Maxi-Crop (how much)
do you leach soil from time to time

Grooming leaves clean and washed
spent blossoms removed
disbudding for more bloom
growing area clean

Humidity violets like 40-60 percent
seasonal changes
regional changes
do you mist when low; use fans when high

Placement where plants are grown in a room
proximity to other violets

Temperature regional changes
seasonal changes
variance from night time low to day time high

I am sure there are many more variables than the ones I have mentioned above.

Experimenting with the variables can be rewarding.

An understanding of how these variables work together

enables the grower to grow a better plant.

Find what works for you. If you are growing plants to your satisfaction, you have the correct combination of variables for your environment.

I would be very interested in hearing from other parts of the country how these variables work for you. Send remarks to: Byron Borck, 1425 Ditty Avenue, Santa Rosa, California 95403.

Foliar Mealy Bugs? —Not Me!

PEGGY PAYNE
108 S. Elizabeth St.
Hallsville, MO 65255

I remember attending an African violet show several years ago. Growers attending the show were talking about foliar mealy bugs. How do you get rid of them? I'd never had mealy bugs on my plants, but I knew just how to cure them. Does that sound familiar?

I'd not only never had them, I wasn't going to! I was too vigilant. The old saying, "Pride goeth before a fall," was very true in my case. I was smug, too.

Last year at show time, I had some beautiful minis and trailers. My plant of 'Teeny Bopper,' was the best trailer in the show. I brought it home because I didn't want to sell it. In fact, a lot of plants didn't sell at our show in May. I didn't isolate my plants; I returned them to the shelf — untreated.

Talk about asking for trouble.

I did disbud all plants (we have all had problems with thrips at one time or another). I do only one shelf a day, which was a happy thing. My plants looked fine at that point. I put them on their usual summer routine.

One July day, I got out my watering can to fill reservoirs and began to work on my plants. I was aghast! My 'Teeny Bopper' looked as if it had been dipped in cotton.

Every inch of it was festooned with mealy bugs.

My reaction was — I've *never* had mealy bugs! Where did they

come from?

Upon inspection, I found that other plants on that shelf were infested. I'm sure I spread them when I disbudded.

My first instinct was to throw everything away, but some plants were "onlies." I compromised by discarding duplicates. I did throw all infested trailers away; although, I think now I probably could have cleaned them up.

I took other trailers apart and re-rooted sections, in isolation.

My panic subsided as I realized that the meales were confined mostly to that shelf.

I got the alcohol out and carefully went over each plant — joints, backs of leaves, with an alcohol dipped cotton swab. I used alcohol every two days until the outbreak subsided.

Each time, after working with the plants, I carefully cleaned my hands and tools. Everyday I was seeing fewer meales, until finally I didn't see any. I wasn't satisfied. I had a bottle of Knox-Out concentrate that I had never opened. I sat down and read the directions.

I decided to mix up the concentrate in a pan and dip all my violets into it.

I criss-crossed plastic wrap over the soil to keep it in the pot, and put on disposable gloves. I upended every plant and dipped it in the concentrate, wetting plant and the surface of the soil. Then I sprayed them off with plain water.

I watched carefully — am still watching — and have seen no more mealy bugs.

Afterward I found out that most people who brought minis home had them; except one grower who plunked her plants down on the back porch and didn't allow them back in until treated.

Only my minis and trailers were affected. No episcias or standards ever had them.

This experience has reinforced the following principles:

Isolate plants for six weeks after a show. If this is not possible, disbud and treat immediately before placing back with your other plants. Look at your plants when you are watering them. It's easy to get careless when you are busy; especially if you have a large number of plants. Do not assume that because you see nothing, your plants are clean. Our entries people at the show were very careful. If possible, do not let plants touch. Following my initial treatment, I moved the plants farther apart.

I have learned that mealy bugs do not travel fast and that not every plant on a given shelf will be infested. I have found that mealy bugs do resemble perlite. I'm sure I treated some perlite-infested plants. It took about six weeks for a full-blown infestation.

I haven't seen any mealy bugs lately. But I'll never say, "Mealy Bugs? Who? Not Me?" again.

FRIENDS of AVSA

DEBBIE GRIFFITH
1212 S. Pierson Ct.
Lakewood, CO 80232

Government reports ... You know how the government *loves* to write reports — reports on every topic they conceive to be of no interest to anyone and a lot of reports that even *they* don't read?

Well, have I got a report for them, and the beauty of this report is that the research has already been done. Won't cost them (really, us) a penny!

My report is entitled "The Cause and Effect of Neglect on the Houseplant Saintpaulia ionantha," subtitled, "How Many Thrips Does it Take to Kill an African Violet?"

The research for this report came about quite by accident. Over the past several years, I've had the opportunity to indulge my plants with lots of time and attention, almost to the point of overindulgence.

Last fall, that changed rather dramatically, as I entered the world of entrepreneurship; otherwise known as "being my own boss." Being an entrepreneur has many advantages, but there is a downside. I haven't devised a method of increasing the hours in a day. Thus, something had to take a back seat; unfortunately, at the end of each long day, I found myself less frequently beating a path to the plantroom.

Some weeks the plants were lucky just to get watered. Forget grooming and fertilizer. After six months of this neglect, I can certainly provide the scientific

data needed for a government report.

For instance, I have discovered that the plants actually can survive if I forget to water them for eight days. Note that I said "survive"; we are not talking flourishing here, just basic factors of survival.

I have also discovered that left undisturbed, thrips will actually *grow* in size, not to mention numbers. The really amazing fact that I have discovered, though, is that these plants have actually managed to produce blossoms. The minis, in particular, just keep putting up bouquets of blossoms, albeit full of thrips, but nonetheless, plenty of blossoms.

With minimal grooming, I might even have a couple of entries for the upcoming RMAVC show; assuming, of course, that

the thrips have shrunk in size and disappeared.

Waddaya think? Wouldn't this make a great report? I'd even be willing to count all those thrips ...

Speaking of counting, AVSA is counting on *you*.

Unlike my plants, AVSA can't and won't survive on neglect. In order to maintain a financially sound, healthy society, each of us must ask ourselves what we have to contribute: whether it be time, effort or money, we each have something to offer our dear society.

The officers and board members of AVSA are working hard to make every dollar count. Won't you stand up and be counted? \$1 from every member of AVSA adds up to a lot of dollars. Let me count you among the donors of Friends of AVSA.

Sugarloaf Mountain Violet Society	\$10.00
Bakersfield AVS	50.00
Mid-Polk AVS	25.00
C. Garrett Durfee	10.00
Dr. Richard Nicholas, - in lieu of speaker's fee	50.00
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council	200.00

Total Donations
for period\$345

Total of All Friends
of AVSA Donations\$2,808

Experience — DENVER

If you've never attended an AVSA convention, the 1994 Colorado Violet Festival is the one not to be missed! In fact, make the Colorado convention your family vacation for 1994. Colorado has it all.

The City-Center Marriott, your convention hotel, is located in the midst of bustling downtown Denver. Shopping, fine dining and lots of history are only footsteps away from the hotel. Just one block from the 16th Street Mall, you'll have easy access to all parts of the downtown area via the free mall shuttle.

City sites not to be missed include the Colorado State Capitol which took 22 years to construct. Catch your breath at 5,280 feet and then make the climb to the Capitol Dome for a grand view of the mountains.

The City and County of Denver government office building, highlights the Civil Center Complex. Currently due for completion in 1994, is the new Denver Public Library, which will house the renowned Western German artist Bierstadt's paintings of the West.

Not to be missed are the nine Tiffany chandeliers designed especially for the Denver Mint. Two blocks to the east is the Colorado History Museum. Though a comparatively "young" state, Colorado nevertheless is rich in history. Focal points in the museum are the many dioramas, constructed by unemployed archaeologists and historians during the Depression.

Top off your "civic" tour with high tea at the Brown Palace Hotel, constructed in 1892 for the princely sum of \$1,600. The lobby of the Brown Palace is well worth your time. Note the "red stone" exterior of the Brown Palace. Exteriors of many original buildings in Denver are constructed of this native Colorado stone.

At the other end of the 16th Street Mall, you'll find the Tabor Center and historic Larimer Square, both of which will surely satisfy your shopping appetite.

The Cultural Trolley makes the rounds of all the

locations in downtown Denver, plus the Denver Zoo, Natural History Museum and City Park and the Molly Brown House. Cost is \$1 for the entire day and you may make as many stops as you like.

Ten minutes from the downtown area is Cherry Creek, original site of Denver's settlement, home now to the Cherry Creek Shopping Center — Denver's premier shopping experience. Located directly across from Cherry Creek is the Tattered Cover Bookstore — rated as one of the top bookstores in the country. Browse through three floors of thousands and thousands of books, or grab an easy chair and peruse your favorite magazine.

Younger family members will delight at the Children's Museum, a hands-on museum designed to stimulate the imagination of children of all ages. For the sports fan, Coors Field is due to be completed in 1994 — for the National League Colorado Rockies baseball team.

No matter where you are in downtown Denver, it's nearly impossible not to feel the influence of the Rocky Mountains. From your hotel room, or the Capitol Dome, or just walking down the streets, the mountains command your attention. The view from the city is just a teaser for the grandeur you'll experience during the special convention tours.

By the end of the convention, you'll be able to expertly pinpoint Long's Peak, Mount Evans and even Pike's Peak to the south in Colorado Springs. Did you know that the wondrous view from Pike's Peak was the inspiration for "America the Beautiful?"

Why not come join us early, get acclimated to our wonderful climate and altitude and have fun in one of the most beautiful areas in our country.

The Colorado Violet Festival is a convention you will treasure always.

BOOKS

GARY R. BECK and ANNE JANTZEN

Ortho's Complete Guide to Successful Houseplants

Larry Hodgson,
Dr. Charles C. Powell
\$29.95 hardcover,
320 pp., illustrated

Ortho Books has released a large coffee-table book covering over 300 species of houseplants — both flowering and foliage. Emphasis is placed on cultural care of these plants, and decorating an indoor space. Many tips are included relating to pests, diseases, propagation, greenhouses, encouraging growth, and prolonging bloom.

Larry Hodgson is editor of *HousePlant* magazine. A member of 40 horticultural societies, he has written articles for several previous Ortho books concerning gardening and houseplants.

Dr. Charles C. Powell is a professor of plant physiology at Ohio State University, working in teaching, and research and writing over 500 articles for various publications.

Many growers, hybridizers, and commercials contributed to this volume. This array of experts has aided the authors not only with knowledgeable information but also beautiful color photographs (at least 200, including some from the Ortho photo library).

The sections on African violets and gesneriads are small, but concise and clear in this

basic advice on cultural techniques and analysis of possible problems. The two photos of *Saintpaulia ionantha* are questionable relating to the blossom color (p. 222) and whether the underpotted plant (p. 25) is the species, or merely a variety of the African violet.

Several pages are devoted to information concerning gesneriads (pp. 218-226). Attention is paid to the three types of gesneriads: fibrous-rooted, scaly-rhizomed, and tuberous-rooted. All genera are listed in alphabetical order. Brief descriptions are included of *Streptocarpus*, *Sinningia*, *Nematanthus*, *Episcia*, *Chirita*, *Columnea*, and others. It is stated that there are more than 120 genera and 2,000 species in this family. Though

most are grown for their blossoms, many species are cultivated for their attractive foliage or unusual growth habits.

"Solving Specific Plant Problems" is a large chapter on pests, diseases, and cultural problems. It is an excellent synopsis of the common concerns of growers of houseplants including African violets and gesneriads. Being a chemical company that thrives on eliminating insects and plant diseases, Ortho excels in describing these problems, from causes to symptoms to control.

An index of plants' common and botanical names is particularly useful. Also included is a conversion chart of U.S. and metric measures. This can be useful when mixing insecticides and fertilizers.

In summary, this volume of hundreds of houseplants is a valuable addition to the home grower, as a reference book and an educational tool. This book is consistent with Ortho's standards of fine writing and photography.



DALE MARTENS took Best in Show with *Eucodonia* 'Frances,' at a recent Grow and Study Club's show at Buena Park, CA.

SHOWS & JUDGES

BILL FOSTER
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150



I'll begin by saying thanks to Frank Senna, 1993 Lancaster convention chair, and Kay Lyons, convention show chair, and all their committees and club members for showing us, in grand style, that we do, indeed, "Have Friends in Pennsylvania." I offer my personal thanks to all the judges and clerks, as well as my team of consultants, for your work in the showroom. It takes the efforts of everyone, including the awards team, local staff, consultants, judges, clerks, and especially the exhibitors to produce a successful show, so, congratulations ... you all did a super job! The September issue of the AVM will give you a report on questions and discussions that took place at the judge's breakfast and any actions of the Shows and Judges Committee.

Some concerns have been expressed regarding the value of collections on the Standard Show Award score sheet with the separation of the mini and semimini collections. The same rule applies as before ... if two rosettes are awarded, the maximum points are earned. It is possible, if a show has commercial collections, that eight rosettes, (4 golds, 4 purples) could be awarded. Still, only the maximum of 12 points would be earned. Simply, if a show is awarded the gold rosette for a standard collection, and the gold

rosette for a miniature collection, the maximum of 12 points would still be earned. Also, an AVSA member MAY enter one collection of standards and one collection of the miniatures or semiminiatures.

Who may be in the show area during judging? The *Handbook* states that the show chairman, judges' chairman, awards chairman, and the classification chairman must be available for consultation. Until recently, when this question was asked, I assumed that everyone interpreted this as I always had, and everyone in my part of the world always has ... THAT THESE ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE, OTHER THAN THE JUDGES AND CLERKS, that should be in the show room during judging.

Perhaps this will be added to the *Handbook*.

Our state society has a judging school at our convention each year. Many of our certified judges take the exam as a renewal. Since their current cer-

tificate, by rule, expires when they take the exam, or due the calendar shift, the expiration date precedes the show, may these judges serve on a panel for the show the next day? I think, because it would sure be rushing the teacher to have the grades available the next day, we should consider the current certificate date effective until the new certificate is received. However, if a certificate has already expired, the judge should not judge until a new certificate is received. There are always exceptions to rules ... if there was a shortage of judges and certificates of some had expired a few days prior and they took the renewal, I can see no harm in them judging if this is acceptable to the show officials. If only one or two are in question, the teacher might be able to go ahead and check the exam and let them know if they passed.

Have a good summer and I will talk with you again in September!

Future AVSA Conventions

Denver, Colorado — May 23 - 28, 1994
St. Louis, Missouri — May 22 - 27, 1995
Atlanta, Georgia — May 20 - 25, 1996

REGISTRATION REPORT



IRIS KEATING
149 LORETTO COURT
CLAREMONT, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

REGISTRATIONS

Don Ness - White Bear Lake, MN

*ADDIE LOU HARRIS (7820) 12/30/92 (D. Ness)

Semidouble dark red pansy/variable white markings at edge. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, plain, **Semiminature**

*NESS' ANGEL BABE (7821) 12/30/92 (D. Ness)

Semidouble-double pink ruffled pansy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Miniature**

*NESS' BLUE PEARL (7822) 12/30/92 (D. Ness)

Semidouble light blue star/thin white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*NESS' BLUE VELVET (7823) 12/30/92 (D. Ness)

Semidouble dark blue star/thin white edge. Dark green, plain, wavy/red back. **Standard**

*NESS' DYNAMITE (7824) 12/30/92 (D. Ness)

Double dark fuchsia/thin white ruffled edge. Dark green, plain, glossy/red back. **Semiminature**

*NESS' FIREFLY (7825) 12/30/92 (D. Ness)

Semidouble fuchsia pansy/lighter edge. Dark green, plain, glossy/red back. **Semiminature**

*NESS' FOGGY BLUES (7826) 12/30/92 (D. Ness)

Semidouble pale blue pansy/lighter edge. Medium green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

*NESS' PINK RIBBONS (7827) 12/30/92 (D. Ness)

Semidouble-double chimera white pansy/hot pink stripe. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

*NESS' TWINKLE PINK (7828) 12/30/92 (D. Ness)

Double pink pansy. Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Semiminature**

*NESS' WHITE BEAR (7829) 12/30/92 (D. Ness)

Semidouble white large star. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

*NESS' WINE MIST (7830) 12/30/92 (D. Ness)

Semidouble wine frilled pansy/darker top petals. Dark green, plain, glossy, scalloped. **Standard**

Greta Durand - Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada

*AHOY THERE (7831) 1/4/93 (G. Durand)

Single-semidouble dark blue large star/white ruffled edge. Dark green, plain, quilted, scalloped. **Large**

*CHIC (7832) 1/4/93 (G. Durand)

Semidouble bright pink star/dark blue fantasy, white edge. Medium green, plain, scalloped. **Large**

*GENTILITY (7833) 1/4/93 (G. Durand)

Double lavender star/purple fantasy, darker tips, white edge. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, scalloped. **Standard**

*GRAPE COOLER (7834) 1/4/93 (G. Durand)

Single-semidouble purple pansy. Variegated dark green, white and pink, plain, glossy. **Large**

*ITZA PEACH (7835) 1/4/93 (G. Durand)

Semidouble peach two-tone large ruffled star. Dark green, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Large**

*LUSTY LADY (7836) 1/4/93 (G. Durand)

Double orchid-pink large star. Dark green, plain, scalloped. **Large**

*MELLOW FELLOW (7837) 1/4/93 (G. Durand)

Double medium blue large star/white edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, scalloped. **Large**

*MOOD MUSIC (7838) 1/4/93 (G. Durand)

Single violet two-tone sticktite star. Dark olive green, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***MYSTERY LADY** (7839) 1/4/93 (G. Durand)
Semidouble bright lavender two-tone pansy.
Variegated medium green and white, plain,
pointed. **Standard**

***RHYTHM 'N' BLUES** (7840) 1/4/93 (G. Durand)
Single dark blue large star. Variegated dark
green, white and pink, plain, glossy, wavy,
scalloped. **Large**

***SPRING CROCUS** (7841) 1/4/93 (G. Durand)
Semidouble lavender fantasy/white edge.
Medium green, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

***TOPNOTCH** (7842) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Semi-
double coral large ruffled star. Dark green,
pointed, quilted, serrated. **Large**

***YOUTH** (7843) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Double pink
star/dark blue fantasy, white edge. Medium
green, glossy, scalloped. **Large**

Dennis Stevens - Kansas City, MO

***ASHLEY** (7844) 1/11/93 (D. Stevens) Single
bright rose-pink two-tone pansy/darker eye.
Dark green, plain. **Standard**

Jim/Hugh Eyerdorm - Medina, OH

***CRYSTAL ROSE** (7845) 1/15/93 (Eyerdorm)
Single chimera raspberry ruffled/white stripe.
Light green, glossy, wavy. **Standard**

***GRANGER'S SUGAR FROST** (7846) 1/15/93
(Eyerdorm) Single chimera pink star/white stripe,
raspberry glitter. Light green, plain, glossy.
Standard

***JUNE ROSE** (7847) 1/15/93 (Eyerdorm) Double
red-orchid/lighter band, white edge. Medium
green, plain, hairy, glossy/red back. **Standard**

***PINK PICTURESQUE** (7849) 1/15/93 (Eyerdorm)
Semidouble bright pink/wide white edge.
Light green, plain, glossy. **Standard**

***ROSE PICTURESQUE** (1/15/93 (Eyerdorm)
Semidouble bright red-orchid/white frilled edge.
Medium green, plain, hairy, glossy, wavy. **Standard**

***ROYAL BRIDE** (7850) 1/15/93 (Eyerdorm)
Semidouble vivid purple/variable red center,
white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy.
Standard

NAME RESERVATIONS

Genelle Armstrong - Metairie, LA

(The following is a hybrid of the late Jeannette
Domiano)

* Petite Danser

Diane Lucchesi - San Jose, CA

* Nicodemo

Darryl Hoover - Fullerton, CA

* Tiny Dancer * Tiny Tyrant

NAME RESERVATION RENEWALS

J. C. Munk - Houston, TX

(Each of the following is preceded by the name
Apache) * Arrowpoint * Brave * Country * Dancer
* Face * Flintrock * Footsteps * Friendship *
Hunter * Liberty * Paint * Peace * Rainbow * Silver
* Stars * Summer * Sunburst * Sundance *
Sunflower * Sunset * Sweetheart * Treasure

Genelle Armstrong - Metairie, LA

(The following are hybrids of the late Jeannette
Domiano)

* Allons Danser * Black Magic Woman * Crescent
City Connection * Italian Open

Master Variety List #6

— \$12.95 postpaid —

*Describes all varieties
and non-registered cultivars
introduced from July 1983
to December 1992.*

*MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL
Binder available from AVSA Office
or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder.*

Heritage AVS - Long Island, New York VS.

The Storm of the Century

LILLIAN BANCHIK

Wednesday

March 10 - This entire week has been filled with plant grooming, getting the packing boxes ready and filling out entry forms. The sale plants have been picked up and are ready for display. One supplier was unable to provide plants and we're discussing whether or not to get extra plants from another source. All signs look good for a great show; but now a weather report is coming in — a large storm is building in the Gulf of Mexico and is due in the New York area over the weekend.

Thursday

March 11 - We're all getting worried as the weather reports worsen, but the sky still looks clear. Since the local weather persons have been wrong as often as they're right, we all assume that the weekend will be okay for the show. We've finished packing up the plants for transportation to the show and rechecked every plant for that stray spent blossom or sign of powdery mildew.

Friday

March 12 - As beautiful a day as you could ask for. The temperature is in the 40s and the sky is clear and blue. The weather reports can't be right. We start setting up at about 2 p.m. and finish up around 11 p.m. The show looks great! For

a small club (16 active members) we have over 115 plants, including multiple entries in collection classes, an entire wall is filled with plant or flower arrangements and we've run out of places to put the container gardens. The court of honor is set up and awaiting the winners. The educational displays are ready and the sales tables are loaded with fresh plants. The one fly in the ointment (thrips on the blossom?) is the weather report. The storm has now hit Florida and is appearing to worsen. Terms like "The Storm of the Century," are now being used and a list of closings for Saturday events are already being reported on the radio. The one thing being said over and over is — stay home — and don't go out if it is not necessary. Surely, judging an African violet show is a necessity! All of our judges say that if they can get to the show, they'll be there, even if it's in the afternoon, instead of the morning. One of the local judges who is not judging our show, (the advantage of being on Long Island where there are over 20 qualified judges), has stopped by and let us know that if we need help she'll come over and judge for us.

Saturday

March 13 - The snow started last night and now the storm is so bad you can barely see across

the street. The winds are now blowing over 60 miles per hour. All of our judges feel sorry for us, but none are able to make it over to the show. They all agree to try and get out tomorrow. The consensus among the show committee is that we won't open the show today, but will try for tomorrow. Our president, a woman of great dedication (and a small amount of craziness) has braved the blizzard to get over to the show hall. She made sure that the hall was warm, watered the sale plants and misted the arrangements to try and keep them fresh. The rest of the day has been spent looking out the window at the storm, cleaning up the plant stands and wishing that the snow would stop. By the early evening the storm seems to be over but now it is raining, turning the snow-pack into ice sheets.

Sunday

March 14 - Got up at 6 a.m. to shovel (?) the driveway. Actually, since it's a solid ice sheet, I broke it up with a sledge hammer and pushed it off to one side. It took a lot longer to clear the four foot snow bank, courtesy of our neighborhood snowplow, at the foot of the driveway, but two electric company repairmen took pity on me and gave a hand. Likewise, the snow had buckled the garage roof and they helped me get the

door open. At 9 a.m. the phone rings — the show is on, but it looks like we have no judges since they can't get out of their driveways. A few frantic calls later and we have one senior judge (the one who stopped by Friday night) who can come and since three of our club members are student judges, it looks like we can get the show judged after all.

5 p.m. Sunday - Well it's all over. The judging went well; we received a blue ribbon for the SSA, had gold and purple ribbon winners in both the AVSA collection classes and several other special awards. The court of honor is filled with prize-winning plants, and, miracle of miracles, we actually sold a good portion of the sale plants, both to club members and those hardy souls who braved the

snow to come out and see the show. The pastor of the church where we had the show has graciously allowed us to break down on Monday since the roads are still too slippery for repeated trips. A local hospital gift shop has agreed to buy the unsold plants so we even broke even on the plant sales.

Monday

March 15 - The show is now a memory (nightmare?). The plants are back on the stands, minus their blossoms, the awards have been taken home and the hall has been cleaned. If you can believe it, we're already talking about next year's show, with the show chairman swearing that she'll never do anything like this again.

What does a blizzard have that a group of dedicated violet growers don't!

Important Notice: Senior Judges

If your Senior Judge Certificate expires this year, you may apply for the renewal examination between the receipt of the May issue of the *African Violet Magazine*, and September 1, 1993. Allow two weeks for delivery. Write to: Mrs. Frances C. King, 3327 28th St., San Diego, CA 92104. The fee is \$3.50 (make check payable to AVSA). The deadline for returning the completed examination for grading is October 1, 1993.

Those Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination, send check for \$3.50 (payable to AVSA) to Mrs. King. Also send the following items of documentation of eligibility per *AVSA Handbook*: 1) list of all judging schools attended, grades, etc., 2) signed schedules of five AVSA shows judged, and 3) a 3" x 5" card verifying three blue ribbons earned. Schedules and cards will be returned if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.

Allow up to three weeks for delivery. Applications postmarked after September 1, 1993, will be returned and application may be made next year. Completed exams postmarked after October 1, 1993, will not be graded. Allow three weeks or more (after October 1, 1993) for grading and return of examination.



STREPTOCARPUS 'Janus' was Best Gesneriad at a recent Tampa (FL) African Violet Society show. Grown by JoAnne Martinez, the theme for the show was "Violets in the Sunshine State."

SHOW TALK

DARRYL HOOVER

1812 W. Southgate • Fullerton, CA 92633

To ensure each exhibitor and exhibit receives the recognition they deserve, please either print or type your results on the reporting form. Once you've completed the Show Talk report, please double check your spelling. I can check hybrids through the MVL; however, individual names require me to contact the particular affiliates show chair. This may delay the publishing of your show results.

Please include a self-addressed stamped post card with your report. This will allow me to acknowledge receipt of your report and allows me to inquire with the affiliate should the need arise.

HAPPINESS IS AVS — Winners: Best in show, *Party Print*, **Eileen Nelson**; second best in show, *Rob's Little Butterfly* (sm), best semi, *Rob's Little Butterfly*, best gesneriad, *Streptocarpus 'Mighty Mouse'*, **Betty Margettes**; best design, *Millissa Culver*; best project plant, *Colorbook Trail*, **Ona Boutcher**.

CALIFORNIA STATE CONVENTION — Winners: Best AVSA standard collection, *Snow Rose*, *Fredette's Bethesda*, *Maverick's Bluegrass Music*, **Dorothy Gawienowski**; second best AVSA standard collection, *Tiger*, *Swiftly Thriller*, *Tomahawk*, **Al Cornibe**; best in show, *Midnight Radiation*, *Cunato Gamulao*; second best in show, *Fredette's Bethesda*, **Doris Weaver**; best design, "Howarth Memorial Park," **Mae Mendes**; best trailer, *Sky Diver*, best miniature, *Little Marsley*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Ann Wang**; best

semi, *Pat Champagne*, **Enid Wood**; best gesneriad, *Streptocarpus 'Blue Ribbon'*, sweepstakes (design), **Susan Bastianelli**.

MEMPHIS AVS, TN — Winners: Best in show, *Shutterbug* (sm), best semi, *Shutterbug*, second best in show, *City of Angels*, best mini, *Skagit Lil Red*, best trailer, *Sundown Trail*, best design, sweepstakes (horticulture/design), **Peggy Adamson**; best gesneriad, *Chirita*, **Iona Pair**.

TRISTATE AVC — Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Petite Jewel* (m), *Ness' Angel Blush* (m), *Rob's Romancer* (m), best in show, *Petite Jewel* (m), second best in show, *Sugar Bear Blues* (sm), best trailer, *Titana*, best miniature, *Petite Jewel*, best semi, *Sugar Bear Blues*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Bob Kurzynski**; second best AVSA collection, *Heritage Frolic* (sm), *Rob's Silver Spook* (sm), *Rob's Artful Dodger* (sm), **Dale Jasaitis**; best design, sweepstakes (design), **Rhona Thurman**; best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Kee Wee'*, **Linda LoPresti**.

NUTMEG STATE AVS, CT — Winners: Best AVSA standard collection, *Suncoast Paisley Print*, *Ballet Marta*, *Nortex's Snowkist Haven*; best in show, *Suncoast Paisley Print*, best miniature, *Ballet Snowcone*, **Ann Butler**; best AVSA mini/semi collection, *Rob's Violet Sky*, *Irish Flirt*, *Little Katherine*, best design, best trailer, *Milky Way Trail*, best semi, *Irish Flirt*, sweepstakes (horticulture/design), **Edna Rourke**; best gesneriad, *Sinningia conspicua*, **Marcia Kilpatrick**.

AVS OF JACKSONVILLE, FL — Winners: Best in show, *Juliana*, second best in show, *Big Daddy*, **Bobbi Johannsen**; best miniature,

Optimara Little Apatite, best semi, *Dancing Dear*, best design, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Barbara Murdock**; best trailer, *Ramblin' Dos*, **Mary Harrell**; best gesneriad, *Grandifolia nortrex*, **Lucy Wall**.

AV STUDY CLUB OF HOUSTON, TX — Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Dib's Ming Blue*, *Ming White*, *Happy Cricket*, best in show, *Sultan*, second best in show, *Dib's Ming Blue*, best trailer, *Tensie's Trail*, best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Toy Silver'*, **Gerri Goins**; second best AVSA collection, *Hand Made* (sm), *Magic Blue* (sm), *Snuggles Lady Dawn* (sm), best semi, *Magic Blue*, *Meredith Hall*; best design, **Laura Liggett**; best miniature, *Timid Teen*, **Trish Wright**.

NEW YORK STATE AVS — Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Hector* (sm), *Optimara Little Blackfoot* (sm), *Precious Pink* (sm), **Doug Burdick**; second best AVSA collection, *Velvet Frost*, *Optimara Sequoia*, *Tomahawk*; best miniature, *Misty Miss*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **James Smith**; best in show, *Dancin' Trail*, best trailer, *Dancin' Trail*, **Bob McCabe**; second best in show, *Rob's Fiddle Faddle*, best semi, *Rob's Fiddle Faddle*, **Betty Tapping**; best design, best gesneriad, *Chirita sinensis 'Hisaku'*, sweepstakes (design), **Paul Kroll**.

**Affiliates:
Please Note
New Address
for "Show Talk"**

DARRYL HOOVER
1812 W. Southgate
Fullerton, CA 92633



FAVORITE CHILD

a Cox/Johnson hybrid
grown by Richard Nicholas, Evansville, Indiana

Blue Ribbon - 1992 AVSA Convention
Columbus, Ohio

Small Beginnings

RAMARIE BEAVER
1407 Cotillion Drive
Plano, Texas 75074

I bought my first African violet on a whim at a nursery because I simply wanted something to care for. I was drawn to a particular African violet because it was so small. I didn't know it then, but it was to be the first of many times that I would be drawn to what I later found out were miniature African violets. Since I bought that first African violet in November, 1989, I have had many violets come and go, but it is still a marvel to me how my interest in these tiny plants has blossomed (no pun intended!) and affected other people.

After I brought the first violet home, it grew successfully, but without blooms, under my desk's fluorescent light. Then,

by chance, my dad found an advertisement for an African violet show and sale. Along with my mother, I attended the show and, as well as buying two new plants, I picked up a pamphlet which gave me basic tips on growing violets and made me aware of AVSA. I couldn't believe there could be a society and a magazine devoted solely to African violets! My curiosity piqued, I subscribed to *African Violet Magazine* and was pleased and thrilled to find loads of information, most of which was "news to me." I began using plastic pots instead of clay pots, and I also began to water with wicks.

Meanwhile, the plants that I had bought at the sale contin-

ued to bloom, but the "matriarch" of my three-plant collection remained the same. I didn't want to lose this plant whose sentimental value to me was great. I felt incapable of REMOVING it from its pot, as I had read in the *AVM*, to change its soil. Finally, I made my mother do it! Soon after this was done, I realized that the violet had a "neck" which, according to the magazine, I should SCRAPE. Again, the idea of scraping a plant and slicing off some of its roots did not connect in my mind with a healthier, happier plant. In a reckless mood, however, I did the "dirty deed" and found, to my astonishment, that no harm was done. Slowly, my skin began to thicken and I became much more discriminating. I could easily pick out healthy plants at sales and began to encourage blooms on all of my violets.

As I became more and more passionate about my hobby so, too, my mother's interest grew. Like so many people, my mother had had violets in the past, but the always "died on her." With my enthusiasm and success, however, my mother began to add her own violets to the collection.

Although I've now had several violets come and go, I feel I am still an amateur grower. But after three years, my passion for violets isn't fading. In fact, I recently visited a show, bypassing all the sale plants to search



PEARL

earnestly for a particular leaf (Irish Flirt). No longer will any pretty violet do! Even after having been away at college and then abroad for six months, my African violets are still a con-

stant in my life. While in England, I found a beautiful, white-blossomed violet at a super-market and, since she had no name or breeder, I named her Pearl (see photo). It seems that

no matter where I go or what I do, my violet passion will always be with me. And it all started with what I thought would be a nice green plant for me to tend.

Plastic Bags Keep Plants Happy During Vacation

(This article originally appeared in the March 1957 AVM. It was written by Mrs. Ted Lamach of Colville, WA.)

Months ago I read someone's hint to use plastic bags for the violets for vacation periods. Our annual vacation was granted for October first this year. So my violets successfully completed a two-week stint in plastic bags, from October 1 to October 15. At this date I can not see that any of them have suffered any ill or long lasting effects from their experience.

Some rather odd things happened to them though. *Grotei* grew roots about one inch long all along her viney stems. She did shock me when I removed her from the bag and saw her whiskers. I have a seedling violet quite similar to *grotei* in growth and it grew long whiskers also. These roots have all dried up now and no bad effect remains. The *episcia* fared well in its bag and did not grow whiskers. All the potted plants I put into bags were in four inch size pots or two and one-half inch, none smaller. I watered them well on the previous day and the next morning put them into the bags, depending on the size bag and plant as to how many pots went into each bag, as many as would fit in without crushing the leaves. I closed the bag, leaving about one inch opening in the end, cutting

another one inch hole in the top of the bag so they had a little cross ventilation.

Only one bag of the 17 seemed to have been too air tight. It had formed a rather gelatinous substance in the bottom of the bag after two weeks.

I set all the bags on the floor and set the thermostat for 68 degrees. A few of the bags evidently formed some condensed moisture, for some of the foliage was quite moist when I removed the pots on October 15. But the moisture did not seem to do any harm as far as crown rot was concerned.

I just set the damp plants well out of any light until the next day when their foliage was well

dried off. A very few of the outer leaves did rot; I removed them, and no harm was done. By the end of their two weeks in the bags their blossoms were immense and a great number on each plant.

After a week of being back in room temperature and air, all of these beautiful blossoms fell off. What a shower of falling blossoms! They are now opening new blossoms, and so no lasting harm was done.

Next year at vacation time I will not worry about trying to find a violet sitter. I will just get out the plastic bags again and feel fairly sure that the flowers will be in fair condition when I get home.



VALENTINE GREETINGS TO AVSA from Manoon Jiamjarasungsil with 'Angel's Petticoats' grown in a nursery in Thailand.



Rob's Bee Boopsie

Rob's Mini-o-lets, Tonawanda, New York

Rob's Match Point

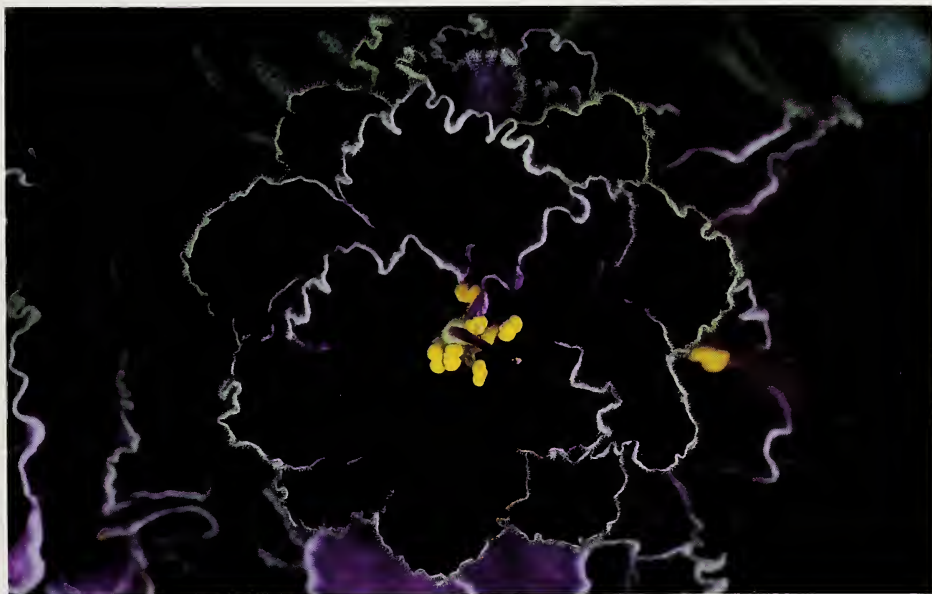




Victorian Velvet

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Dolgeville, New York

Scandal



Trailers Under Control

PATRICIA EGAN

*Secretary, African Violet-Gesneriad Society of N.S.W.
(Reprinted from the African Violet News)*

During Reg Townsend's talk on growing to show at a recent meeting, when the best trailers to grow were discussed, it struck me, not for the first time, that I grow very few of the varieties mentioned. 'Happy Trail,' 'Glenda,' the Pixies (Blue & Pink), 'Snowy Trail,' etc., no longer grace my shelves, and for once in my rather haphazard violet-growing career, this is the result of a conscious decision: to rationalize my trailer collection taking into consideration two main factors: space and time.

Like everybody else, I used to grow all the popular trailers (and some of the unpopular ones as well), but about two years ago I yielded to the obvious — these were just too big and took up too much valuable space on my shelves.

For those new to the trailer game, do not be misled by the classifications — "Miniature" and "Semiminiature" — they refer to leaf size, not the overall size of the plant. They can, and do, grow into very large plants. Even those that used to be called "micro-miniature" can grow to a substantial size — but they take longer to do it!

Also, my growing conditions did not suit the large-growing trailers terribly well. As I grow entirely under lights in an area with no natural light, they received light from the top only, and missed out on side light to

promote good over-all growth. And, finally, I did not have the time to devote to the pinching and shaping that true trailing varieties need. And yet, I still wanted to grow trailers — so, what to do?

Being interested in all things small in the violet world, I naturally had some of the micro-miniature trailers; so, I decided to concentrate on these and other smaller-growing varieties which tend to be "semi-trailing" (the spreading rather than hanging-down type) — even if they are not classified as such — which perform well under top-light, with little or no pinching.

I had had some success in growing them in small shallow bowls (sort of bonsai Japanese-style trailers). I think most of us have seen the photographs in magazines of tiny Japanese women dwarfed by the monstrous trailers. Well, picture my tiny ones in bowls about 4" across and 1" or so deep, grown in the same way as the Japanese biggies — with a plant centered in the bowl, and encouraged to spread and develop roots from the trails lying on the shallow bed of potting mix. They fill the little bowls in no time, and can (with good luck and a following wind) develop into delightful little mounds covered in blooms. They receive the same care as my other violets (*i.e.*, minimal) and have no special

needs as to fertilizer or potting mix.

(At this point I must publish a disclaimer — I am not setting myself up as a great grower of show trailers. True, I have grown some nice plants, and indeed once or twice they have actually been at their nicest at the time of a show and I have won the odd prize. Mostly they do not cooperate by being in bloom when they are most needed, but I can forgive them this — I grow them for my own enjoyment and they give me much pleasure.)

So, what trailers do I have? Well I must confess, despite the above preamble, that one or two bigger varieties have lingered on — 'Dancin' Trail' will always stay — I love its red blooms. I am also very fond of 'Freckle Trail.' I like the way its small fantasy blooms hang down on fine stems over the variegated foliage giving a weeping appearance.

I was also keeping 'Skagit Victory Trails' mainly because I think of it as the violet with everything — fantasy blooms on variegated trailing girl foliage (although "trailing" is somewhat of an overstatement) but it decided to die and I will bow to fate and not replace it.

A few new ones have also crept in (on trial only of course) that should grow a little larger than I like, but are currently behaving well and staying small!

On the next page is a partial list of favorites:

Patricia Egan's Partial List of Trailers

Seaspray - a good fantasy

Sante Fe Trail - medium pink double - easy to grow and I think it is one of the most floriferous pinks ever

Sundown Trail - good dark blue double - shaping up well - good reports of this one from America

Teeny Bopper - tiny purple bell on minute dark foliage. Probably the smallest of all and quite delightful, but some growers have trouble getting the blooms to open.

Brazos Belle - medium clear pink bell - small dark foliage - a very nice reliable trailer

Skagit Tiny Trails & Skagit Pixie Trails - very similar with small medium green foliage and tiny rose bell blooms - the difference being that Pixie has blue fantasy markings - both excellent for my style of growing

Sprite - a little English trailer - light green foliage with tiny white single flowers with a palest lilac overlay

Ramblin' Midget - lavender fantasy single over variegated foliage - very pretty - little larger than most of the others, but controllable

Foxwood Trail - shaded fuchsia-red bell - mine grow very small, but others have found it to be a larger grower - a great bloomer and overall a very good variety

Imp Trail - vivid dark blue very tiny flat single blooms with rounded petals over small foliage - unusual and very nice indeed

U-Haul Trail - tiny blue bell on very small foliage - sounds uninteresting, but grows into a very neat and nice plant

Blustery Trail - white bell on small dark foliage - a classic

Pip Squeek - pale pink open bell - very small foliage

Lil Creeper - very tiny rose pink double on minute variegated foliage - a shy bloomer, but quite delightful

Jeepers Creepers - white and pink double over tiny variegated foliage

Adeara - pale pink single on pretty variegated foliage - another shy bloomer, but exquisite - worth growing for the foliage alone

Tiny Wood Trail - blue single - prolific bloomer



Dean's Kitten

Shirley's House of Violets, San Antonio, Texas

Dean's Legacy





QUESTION BOX

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Spring has arrived, and so have the spring violet shows. If you're a member of a local club, please try to participate by entering a plant or two. The BEST way to learn is to DO. I've learned more than a few things through my *failures* at shows. The process of growing a plant to show is also a learning experience in itself, and is something you can only get better at by doing.

For those not in a club having a show, attend one. One can also learn by observing. Turn over the entry cards beside the showplants to see what comments have been made by the judges. A good judge will make instructive comments for the exhibitor, and they are there for everyone's benefit.

Question: I have heard that fireplace ashes (finely sifted) are a good additive for African violet soil. Is this so, and what ratio of ashes to soil?

Answer: Personally, I've never used fireplace ashes in my soil, though I do use horticultural charcoal, at a ratio of 3 cups charcoal to 5 gallons of soil. Given the labor (and mess) involved, most growers choose to buy charcoal, rather than make their own. You can, however, use your fireplace ashes as a substitute.

I found the best discussion of this by the late Max Dekking in *Secrets of Gesneriad Growing*. This book is now out of print,

but is highly recommended if you can find a copy. To quote from the book, "One can... make one's charcoal (from the) natural charcoal left behind in your wood-burning fireplace. Hardwoods such as oak, make excellent charcoal, but fir or eucalyptus is good too. Pine is not recommended, as it seems to have a toxic substance." He goes on to say that he makes all his own by crushing the ashes within a plastic bag, then screening it.

Charcoal, though not necessary to the soil mix, does offer a number of benefits. First, it acts as a soil "sweetener," by keeping down toxic conditions caused by destructive bacteria. It's also a natural source of potash, a necessary nutrient for our plants. Whether you buy it, or make your own, charcoal is a good addition to any soil mix.

Question: When I went to purchase a large quantity of vermiculite, I discovered that I had to choose among a number of different "grades." Can you explain their meaning?

Answer: Vermiculite, like perlite, is sold in a number of different grades, normally ranging from 1 to 6. The "grade" is a means of describing the size, or coarseness, of the individual pieces. The lower the grade number, the more coarse is the vermiculite. Therefore, a grade #2 is more coarse (less fine)

than a grade #6.

The problem that users face is that grade numbers only seem to measure the *relative* coarseness of the product. For example, a bag of #2 vermiculite purchased today may be less coarse than a #3 grade purchased last year. Manufacturers seem to be very inconsistent over time in assigning grades to their products. In addition, a #6 grade of charcoal may be as coarse as a #2 grade of vermiculite. Because of these inconsistencies, it's probably best to buy your soil ingredients by sight, if possible. Experience will eventually tell you how coarse vermiculite, perlite, etc., should appear. If the #2 grade appears too fine for your use, then a #1 grade is what you want to purchase.

As a general rule, most growers of violets tend to use a #1 or #2 grade of vermiculite in their potting mixes. A grade as fine as #6 is useful as a seed-starter mix, but is much too fine to be of much benefit in a general purpose potting mix. The same is pretty much true of perlite. In grades much finer than #3, it tends to be quite "dust-like," and isn't very effective in lightening (making more porous) a soil mix. Unfortunately, the small bags of these materials sold in supermarkets, and the like, usually contain the finer, i.e., higher-numbered grades.

Question: Our club is growing 'Rob's Sunspot' as our project plant. Many members are experiencing "red staining" on the plant leaves, though the variety description doesn't mention this. Is this a genetic condition?

Answer: Yes, this is a genetic condition. This registered variety is described as a "double white star with bright red mottling." Multicolored varieties, such as this one, often exhibit mottling in their leaves — the "red staining" described in the question. 'Moonfire,' a standard-size variety with similar blooms, also will sometimes show mottling in its leaves.



MARY LOU HARDEN won Best Container Garden and 3rd Best Design at a recent Tampa (FL) show.

By their nature, multicolor blossomed varieties are more genetically unstable. This is the small price we pay for the beauty of the flowers. Personally, I've found those plants with mottling in the foliage make the prettiest plants, since the coloring in the foliage usually means more coloring in the blooms. I tend to set these aside as my showplants. I've also found that many of these varieties tend to mottle more (in blooms and foliage) as the plants mature.

Question: My species plant of *S. orbicularis purpurea* is growing well, but has begun to sucker heavily. Is it best to grow single-crowned, or am I better off letting it sucker naturally?

Answer: Unlike our modern hybrids, which are developed to grow best in a specific form, the *Saintpaulia* species plants can be successfully grown either single or multi-crowned. The *Master Variety List* says this species "may be grown single-crowned — does not sucker." The operative word here is "may," since many of the species seem to have a mind of their own, and grow best in different forms for different growers. Personally, I have found *S. orbicularis* to be one species that grows more naturally multi-crowned.

Other species, like *S. ionantha*, *S. velutina*, and *S. diplotricha*, grow extremely well and easily for me as single-crowned plants.

They can, however, be grown multicrowned, if this is their preferred habit under your conditions.

To quote from the *AVSA Handbook*, "Judges must look at the species as native or wild

plants. Occasionally, in the wild habitat, they may have an extra crown or two."

Keep in mind that only the species and trailing varieties may be exhibited as multi-crowned."

For those that are unfamiliar with the species, and haven't tried growing them, I suggest that you do. Many of them grow and bloom as well, or better, than do the modern hybrids. In fact, most seem to be more tolerant of adverse growing conditions such as low light and cool temperatures.

I grow mine in the *worst* area in my plant room, and they continue to grow well and bloom constantly. Though they lack the size and variety of bloom shapes and colors of the hybrids, they do offer a variety of unusual foliage shapes and textures, as well as a novelty the hybrids lack.

Most importantly, growing the *Saintpaulia* species is a way you, as a hobbyist, can preserve this lovely plant. With the rapid destruction of its native habitat, it's likely that many of the species will no longer exist in the wild in the future.

Much like endangered animals in a zoo, the *Saintpaulia* species may someday be growing only in the collections of individual violet enthusiasts.

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Foliage Feeding Pests of African Violets

DR. CHARLES COLE
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX

A number of insect pests have been recorded as feeding on African violet foliage and blossoms. Most of the problems with foliage feeding pests occur in greenhouses; however, certain pests can be a problem in the home as well.

When foliage feeders do attack, the results may be quite devastating.

Most of these pests do not prefer violets as a food but are forced to feed on violets as a result of being misplaced into an environment devoid of their preferred food source.

American Cockroach

The American cockroach is the most commonly reported chewing pest of African violets. It is a common pest in greenhouses, floral shops and in the home.

This pest will feed on leaves, stems, buds and blossoms. They prefer to feed on flower buds and have been known to feed on buds to the extent as to prevent blooming for an extended period of time. Buds are often consumed down to the base of the petiole, leaving the appearance that the buds are shedding.

Often, no other evidence of the pest is seen. When feeding on leaves, large irregular patches are eaten from the edges of the leaves. Cockroaches are

nocturnal; they hide during the day and feed when the lights are out, thus they may go undetected for months.

Just a few cockroaches on a greenhouse bench, or plant stand can cause an unbelievable amount of damage.

If cockroaches are a suspected pest, inspect the plants 15-30 minutes after the lights have been switched off. Simply turn on the room lights and watch for cockroaches scurrying about the plants or inspect plants in the area where damage has been observed with a good flash light.

Cockroaches can generally be controlled without treating the violets themselves.

If the pests are detected, apply a household spray labeled for use on cockroaches, to hiding areas such as loose baseboards, under benches or trays, under and in back of cabinets, tables and furniture.

Light infestations can generally be handled successfully by strategically deploying a few commercially available sticky traps.

Foliage Feeding Larvae

The larval or immature stage of several moths will damage violets. Included in this group are the cabbage looper, tomato fruitworm, several species of armyworms and various other caterpillars.

These larvae do not prefer violets as a host and feed on violets only when no other food source is available.

Infestations are generally the result of larvae hatching from eggs laid by moths trapped in the home or greenhouse. Often larvae are carried in on clothing, vegetables or cut flowers from the garden, or in the fur of pets.

Loopers and fruitworms are greenish in color and are difficult to spot on the foliage, especially when they are small.

Other species such as armyworms and salt marsh caterpillars are easily spotted. Hand picking is a good method for controlling most of these pests as usually only one or two are present. However, loopers and armyworms may attack in large numbers making it necessary to apply an insecticide.

Foliage Feeding Beetles

Striped, banded and spotted cucumber beetles will all feed on violets. Seldom are they found in the home, but they are often serious pests in greenhouses. These beetles are spring and summer pests.

They feed predominantly on blossoms, flower buds or in the very center of a plant on the young tender leaves. Damage can be quite extensive as the beetles fly from plant to plant,

taking a taste of each.

Several species of leaf beetles and flea beetles are occasionally found in greenhouses.

These pests vary in color and in size from 1/16 to 1/4 inch in length. Flea beetles cause the characteristic damage of eating small round holes in the leaves. Leaf beetles generally eat small holes at the edge of leaves.

Products containing malathion, methoxychlor or diazinon are effective in controlling these pests.

Grasshoppers and Crickets

Grasshoppers often invade the greenhouse in late summer. Crickets can infest the home or greenhouse any time during the year in the southern states, but are a pest during summer and fall in the northern states. Grasshoppers seldom cause serious damage, but crickets often damage a good number of plants before they can be located and eliminated.

Physically removing these pests is the preferred control. Where crickets have invaded in large numbers, a labeled pesticide applied to and under greenhouse benches, to the base of the walls and around the outside of the building, generally gives good control.

Foliage feeding pests are not difficult to control. The trick to preventing damage is early detection and elimination of the infestation.

Occasional Pests of African Violets

*DR. CHARLES COLE
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African violet growers are very familiar with common pests such as thrips and mealybugs. A number of less common pests are capable of inflicting serious damage to plants, and others can be a nuisance.

Growers need to be familiar with these pests. Learn to identify the pests and symptoms of the damage they cause.

If a grower is able to identify these minor pests, infestations may be headed off before damage occurs.

Snails and Slugs

Snails and slugs are mainly greenhouse pests and are usually no problem in the home.

Of the several hundred species of snails in the United States, only about a half dozen are found on ornamental plants. Only 30-40 species of slugs are found in the U.S. Several species can be found in association with African violets. Most are

simply a nuisance in greenhouses.

Snails are recognized by their hard spiral shell. When disturbed they retract into the protective shell.

Slugs are similar to snails in appearance, but do not have shells.

Both snails and slugs have soft elongated bodies which are slimy and may appear translucent. They are rather pointed at both ends especially the tail end and have prominent, stalked, retractable eyes which are antennae-like in appearance.

These pests range in size from 1/4 to 3 inches long when extended. Both leave a trail of mucus on the surface where they crawl. This mucus dries to an objectionable, silvery material which can be difficult to remove from the foliage of plants. These pests are usually a dull brown, gray or yellow in color. Some have spots or stripes.

Snails and slugs prefer very moist habitats. They lay eggs in masses of 29-100 and deposit them in the soil.

Most species complete a generation in a year, some take two years. They are active at night and hide in cracks and crevices, under debris or under foliage during the day.

When control of these pests is necessary, use a commercially prepared bait formulation.

For best results apply as directed on the label.

Symphylans

Symphylans are small slender relatives of insects about 1/4 inch long, or less. They have a segmented body with 10-12 pair of legs. They have long antennae, are white in color and move very rapidly.

Symphylans inhabit warm, humid areas which are high in organic matter. They are common in the root ball of plants

and are frequently found under debris and in moist soil under greenhouse benches.

A few species of symphylans will feed on the roots of plants. seldom do they cause any damage to African violets; however, if you are growing from seed, you may find them infesting your seedlings.

Symphylans are not difficult to kill and are generally eliminated when insecticides are applied for the control of pests such as thrips or soil mealybugs.

Scale Insects

Literally hundreds of species of scale insects attack ornamental plants. Several have been recorded from African violets. Scale insects are small, soft-bodied insects which are found on the underside of leaves beneath a waxy-like or varnish-like material secreted by the insects body. This secretion or "scale" protects the insect while it is feeding on the plant.

Once a scale insect inserts its needle-like mouth parts into plant tissue it never moves again. Damage from scale insects results when they suck out the plant sap.

Some species will inject toxic compounds into the plant, causing yellowish spots on the top side of the leaves.

Violet growers should examine plants carefully if leaves begin to show yellow spots.

Scale may be found attached to the bottom side of leaves, usually along one of the main veins.

When infestations are detected early, the scale may be removed by hand, with a small

swab.

Heavier infestations need to be controlled with an approved insecticide.

Numerous products containing orthene, malathion, or diazinon are registered for use on scale insects.

Whiteflies

About 10 species of whiteflies are found on ornamental plants in the home and greenhouse.

At least three species have been collected from African violets.

Whitefly adults are very small, milk white in color and resemble tiny moths flying around above infested plants. The immature stages of the whitefly is found on the underside of leaves. It resembles a scale insect as it is attached to the underside of the leaf.

As adults are quite active, they seldom go for a long time, before being detected and eliminated; thus violets are seldom damaged by this pest.

In greenhouses, whiteflies may be difficult to control, especially if allowed to build up a substantial population.

For control of this pest, the early detection and application of an effective pesticide is very important.

Products containing pyrethrin, resmethrin, orthene, diazinon, dimethoate, malathion and chlorpyrifos are registered for use. Safers soap also gives good control.

Multiple applications are generally required for effective control.

Ants

Ants seldom do any damage

to African violets, but they can be quite a nuisance. Often ants will tend aphid colonies, much as a dairyman tends his herd of dairy cows. They protect the aphids and in return, feed on honeydew secreted by the aphids.

The trick to controlling ants in the home or greenhouse is to locate and destroy the queen. Once the queen is destroyed, along with the workers in the colony, the ant problem disappears. If the queen is not destroyed, she will continue to lay eggs and furnish you with new workers as fast as you can kill them off.

Any of the many approved products available on the market will be effective for controlling ants, if you get the queen.

Ten Ways to Kill An Organization

1. Don't go to meetings.
2. If you do go, go late.
3. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of going.
4. If you do attend a meeting, find fault with the work of the officers and the meetings.
5. Never accept office, as it is far easier to criticize than to do things.
6. Get sore if you are not appointed on a committee, but if you are, do not attend committee meetings.
7. If asked by the president to give your opinion on some matter, tell him or her you have nothing to say.
8. After the meeting tell everyone how things should have been done.
9. Do nothing more than absolutely necessary, but when other members use their ability to help matters along, howl out that the organization is run by a clique.
10. Hold back your dues or don't pay at all.

Growing Violets

— by the Signs of the Moon!

RACINE HOPPER
1545 S. Highland
Berwyn, IL 60402

Our calendar year has been divided into 12 time periods called months; each of which has been assigned a Zodiacal sign. On its travel around the earth, it takes the sun a month to travel through each sign. But the moon travels through each sign EVERY month.

The signs are divided into four categories: fruitful, semi-fruitful, semi-barren and barren. Only the fruitful and semi-fruitful are used for growing, although all are used for some specific purpose.

The moon's phases are divided into quarters. For growing purposes the HALVES are more important than the quarters. The first quarter begins with the New Moon and continues through the second quarter to Full Moon. Those cycles are known as Light of the Moon. The Full of the Moon begins the third quarter and continues through the fourth quarter to New Moon again. This period is known as the Dark of the Moon.

The general "rule of thumb" is to use the fruitful or semi-fruitful signs for growing African violets and other plants which produce their fruit *above* ground. Use the same signs during the dark period of the moon for rhizomes, tubers and any crops which produce below the soil line.

Now, back to the signs and their purposes pertaining to growing:



Cancer (crab) and **Pisces** (fish) produce a profusion of bloom.



Scorpio (scorpion) gives strength to weaklings. Use it (in the first quarter if possible) for those varieties that die easily or are hard to propagate and grow.



Taurus (bull) in *Dark* of moon is especially good for rhizomes, tubers and root crops). In *Light* of moon it should be very conducive to rooting leaves or re-rooting plants.



Libra (scales) produces great beauty (not numbers) of blossoms.



Capricorn (goat — don't mistake the curved horns of the ram with the goat's sharp-looking horns) is good for rapid growth of stalks and roots. I *never* use this sign for those varieties that tend to grow tall and stalky with space between the petioles. (I now have plants of 'Glittersweet' and 'Heirloom' that are growing flat and symmetrical.)



The **Fruitful** signs (Cancer, Pisces and Scorpio) used during the first quarter is ideal; the **Semi-fruitful** signs (Taurus, Libra, Capricorn) are next best, but all six during Light half of the moon (through second quarter) are good. Even all six in Dark of moon are better than semi-barren or barren signs during the Light period of the moon.

A "Moon Signs" leaflet is provided free of charge (but enclose a large stamped and self-addressed envelope) by:

Earl May Seed & Nursery
Shenandoah, IA 51603

This pamphlet is especially interesting because it also gives the best dates to use for cultivation, killing noxious growths, destroying weeds and pests, pruning, pickling fruits and harvest, plus a dozen more things.

A favorite aunt always used the moon signs to plant and grow her garden and always produced "bumper crops." But the thing that made a real believer of me occurred when I was trying to wean our oldest child from her bottle at age 2-1/2+. I had listened to her cry for over two weeks, until I'd finally give the bottle back — three times! An elderly neighbor woman told me to wait: until the signs were leaving the knees, going down to the feet, and when they were above the knees again she wouldn't even want a bottle again. I couldn't read an almanac so she told me when to take it away from her. She cried the first night, cried a little the next day at nap time and at bedtime, and just whimpered a little the next day and night and then it was over!

pH — Does it really matter?

HANS INLIJN

*(Reprinted from African Violet Leaves,
the official publication of the
Illinois African Violet Society, Inc.)*

Considering temperature, humidity, fertilizers and pests, do you really have to worry about the pH of the soil?

For a long time we used Volkmann soil, and from time to time we tested the pH of the soil, which always came out at 6.9 to 7.0, according to the Hellige-Truog Soil Reaction (pH) Tester. Adding Sponge Rock to this soil mix did not change the pH. We watered our plants with rain water, and when that ran out, used purified water from a vending machine.

Many years ago (about 1975-77) Pauline Bartholomew recommended the use of the Hellige-Truog Soil Reaction (pH) Tester. It consists of a bottle Triplex Indicator Solution, a small plastic sleeve with four round cavities, and a bottle of reagent powder, a spatula, and a color chart.

It is sold by Nasco West, P. O. Box 3837, 1524 Princeton Ave., Modesto, CA 95352. Call toll-free 1-800-558-9595 to order. The price at this time is \$17.50 plus 10% for shipping plus sales tax. The catalog number is C8995N.

To test the soil, put two drops of the indicator solution in one of the cavities, then add enough soil so that when you press down on it, the soil is shiny wet. Sprinkle the reagent powder on the soil, and with the help of the chart, match the color of the soil with the chart. It has been my

experience that you get the most color when the soil is dry to begin the test.

To test the pH of water, use one sold for testing water in aquariums. Tap water usually tests alkaline. Rain water and purified water usually show an acid reaction, since the tester reacts alkaline to the minerals in the water. Usually in testing rain water or purified water, the reaction shows very acid. This may be a false reading, since rain water is reported in the literature as being slightly acidic. However, it may also indicate "acid rain" which we have been hearing about.

Fertilizer and peat moss breaking down in time will show an acid reaction. By the time the soil tested acidic, it was time to replot the plants anyway.

The pH tester for aquarium water is available at most pet stores. The one I use is made by Hartz Mountain Corp. To make the test, fill the test tube half full with the water you are testing. Then add three drops of Bromthymol Blue to the tube. Swirl until thoroughly mixed, and match the color of the water against the chart. Incidentally, the color of the drops is yellow. In contact with alkaline minerals it turns blue.

Our first experience with pH trouble was when we purchased some other soil that was more alkaline. When we set out some plantlets, they just did not grow.

We usually did not fertilize our plantlets in the first three or four weeks, except for a one-time very light application. In this case, it was only after we started fertilizer (a source of acid) that they finally started growing.

For many years we did grow nice miniatures.

Then we installed a reverse osmosis system in our kitchen. Somehow we felt that it was

quite a chore to catch rain water, store it, and boil it before using it on the plants. At long last, this was supposed to make life easier!

Our standard plants did not react so much to the change, but on our miniatures we did notice changes.

The centers would develop a small leaf pattern with suckers and blossoms we certainly did not like. On testing the soil in

the pots, it turned out to be alkaline. The plants that were seriously affected never recovered. We changed back to rain water, and our troubles have since disappeared. We are still using the purified water for the majority of our other house plants, and maybe the problem was just in the beginning when the reverse osmosis system was new. In time we will know the answer.

In the beginning of African Violets

At the centennial celebration of the discovery of the African violet, Ursula Krynauf, the grand-niece of Walter von St. Paul-Illaire (who discovered the African violet in 1892) spoke to the Cape (South Africa) African Violet Society. Here are excerpts from that speech, as reported in *Violets Agrowing* magazine, the official publication of the Cape AVS:

For a start, he was the brother of my grandmother — hence the interest.

Baron Walter von St. Paul-Illaire was born on the 12th of January 1860 in Berlin, Germany — his ancestors, having been French Hugue-



Ulrich von St. Paul-Illaire and Amelie von St. Paul-Illaire, parents of Baron Walter von St. Paul Illaire

nots who fled to Germany in the latter half of the seventeenth century. In this respect, I am sure that many of you here today are also

descendants of a branch of French Huguenots who emigrated to South Africa in 1688.

He was christened ADALBERT EMIL WALTER RADCLIFFE LE TANNEUX VON ST. PAUL-ILLAIRE - quite a mouthful.

A little about his last name ILLAIRE. This was his mother's maiden name and as you know previous generations were quite partial to using family names, so that when his mother married ULRICH VON ST. PAUL, as she was the last member to have the name of ILLAIRE, she latched it onto their surname

hoping in this way to preserve it. They however had only one son, WALTER, and he had no sons so the name fell away after all. However, my father, whose mother also bore the name of ST. PAUL-ILLAIRE before she was married, named a township he created when subdividing his farm — ILLAIRE — and it is so registered in the Deeds Office. If anyone present here today is from Somerset West, they may know it. It is situated on the Stellenbosch Road approximately two miles out of Somerset West.

Now, back to WALTER again.

As was customary at the time, being of noble birth, he joined the Kaiser's army and became an officer and head of the Prussian First Brigade Field Artillery. When he was in his twenties, he was sent by the Kaiser as District Magistrate to the then German colony of German East Africa — later called Tanganyika and now known as Tanzania. He was married in Dar-es-Salaam on the 10th of February 1893 to Countess Marguerite Henriette Mathilde Marie Gabrielle von Gersdorff and had one child, a daughter, who unfortunately died at an early age. Subsequently he owned a plantation (probably coffee) and apparently lived there until Germany lost the First World War and their

colonies in Africa.

It was while he was in East Africa that, in 1892, he discovered the little blue African violet in the Usambara Mountains which lie close to the border of Kenya — near the coast. Being a keen botanist he sent a specimen to the Botanical Gardens in Hannover, Germany, where it was scientifically named after him — namely *Saintpaulia ionantha*. More commonly of course it is known as the African violet and many Germans also refer to it as the Usambara Veilchen.

He returned to Berlin when the colony was handed over to the English and kept up correspondence with his sister, my grandmother, who had emigrated with her husband to Natal toward the end of the last century, and he also corresponded with my eldest sister, Hildegard Falk, who now lives in Germany and is therefore unable to be present here today.

Apart from being interested in botany, he was also a keen philatelist and regularly sent stamps to my sister (which she still has); he was a writer —



Elsie Merels (born von St. Paul-Illaire) sister of Walter von St. Paul-Illaire and grandmother of Ursula Krynauw.

several of his books were published in Germany, among them a Swahili Handbook which my sister is at present studying and in which it also mentions that he was General Manager of the German East African Company. Also there is a book of poems called UDA which my grandmother gave to my sister and it was in this book that we learned that a daughter was born to them and died at an early age.

He had a further interest — namely languages and translated a number of books into Swahili. Many of his books are in the possession of a friend of his from the East African days, a Professor Dammann, who is now of course an elderly man and lives in Germany, and I understand that he has bequeathed these books to the German African Institute.

Uncle Walter continued corresponding with our family until the outbreak of World War II. The last postcard my sister received from him was dated a few days before the outbreak of the War and then unfortunately we lost track of him, so that we are unable to establish when and where he died. Even Professor Dammann has been unable to help us in this respect. As you are aware, a wall was built separating the West from East Germany and it was impossible to obtain any



St. Paul's
home in
Dar-es-
Salaam.

information from the East. Perhaps now that Germany has again been unified, this information will become available.

For those of you interested, on display here today are copies of some old maps of Africa depicting German East Africa and also the Usambara Mountains. I have also brought along photographs of the Baron's parents, his sister and the house in Dar-es-Salaam where he and his wife lived when they were married.

You will also see an Usambara Coffee Tin. This I came across in Namibia earlier this year and have merely added it to the collection because the violet was found on the slopes of the Usambara Mountains. Whether there is any connection, I very much doubt.

Now the African violet has become probably one of the most popular houseplants in the world. I think at some time or another, it must have graced virtually every household all over the world.

The Baron would be astonished and probably extremely happy to see all the variations now available and no doubt, would be just as excited as we all are today with the newest member, namely the yellow African violet.

In conclusion, before I officially open the show today, I would like to express our thanks to all of you for remembering and honoring the Baron. In particular, I must mention Mrs. Charl Duncan and her committee members for the hard and enthusiastic work they have put into keeping the society going. As you may know, the society was formed 12 years ago and I understand that three of the original founder members, namely Alec and Charlotte Duncan and Wynne Greeff are still actively involved. It therefore gives me great pleasure to present a photograph of the Baron to the society. May the committee's enthusiasm last for many years to come.

Thank you.

African Violet MAGAZINE

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Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

Deadlines:

January/February issue by October 15

July/August issue by April 15

March/April issue by December 15

September/October issue by June 15

May/June issue by February 15

November/December issue by August 15

All ad correspondence and checks should be sent to:

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9207 Ravenwood Road, Baltimore, MD 21237ph. 410-686-4667

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to December 1992.
MVL is looseleaf and fits
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MVL Binder:

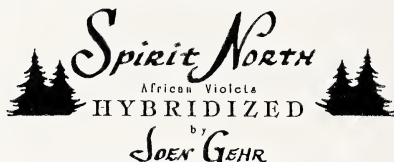
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Miniature African Violets and Gesneriads

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ROB'S AVIS WINNIE: dbl. deep burgundy red-purple w/
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w/bright yellow anthers, held in bouquet above great var.
foliage; tiny mini

ROB'S BLUE KAZOO: sdbl. fringed lav.-mauve, dark tips
and shadings, thin white edge; dark var. fol.; semimini

ROB'S DANDY LION: adorable, large sdbl. bells of pewter-
white w/bright yellow anthers; black, var. fol.; semimini

ROB'S DUST STORM: dbl. very bright pink, spotted w/blue
fantasy; terrific bloomer; semimini

ROB'S GRAY GHOST: bright, clear, sparkling sdbl. white
pansies on black var. fol.; striking semimini

ROB'S HALF MOON: sdbl. white pansy w/thick edges of very
deep pink; Ch. var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S HOKIE POKIE: beautiful sdbl. cream pansies w/great
edging of cherry-red; var. foliage; semimini

ROB'S HOT CHOCOLATE: fringed, very deep, very hot pink
sdbl. blooms in bouquet above black foliage; absolutely
stunning; semimini

ROB'S ICE MAIDEN: sdbl. silver-lavender w/darker purple
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ROB'S IRIDIUM QUEEN: spectacular! huge, triple white
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ROB'S MATCH POINT: dbl. white stars w/perfect, thick blue
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ROB'S MOON CRITTER: unusual; large single white stars
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ROB'S PINK PRISMS: truly unique; sdbl. blush-pink w/rose
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The message on this long sleeved sweatshirt will hit home with lots of violet lovers. American made of 50% cotton / 50% polyester with crew neck, and raglan sleeves. Machine washable with minimal shrinkage. The sweatshirt is a beautiful pastel misty green color with darker green lettering. Available in 3 sizes while supplies last: Medium (38 - 40); Large (42 - 44), and Extra-Large (46). \$14.99 each plus \$5.00 shipping and handling within the U.S. (\$6.50 to Canada). Orders to other countries at actual cost.

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PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Inch			Number of Pots				
Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2-1/8	Wh/TerraCotta	RT	\$.90	\$1.75	\$4.00	\$6.75	\$29.00
2-1/4	Wh/Gr	RS or SQ	1.30	2.20	4.65	8.50	34.00
2-1/2	W/Gr	RS or SQ	1.50	2.50	5.50	9.50	39.00
3	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.80	3.30	7.50	13.50	57.50
3-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT or SQ	2.10	3.75	8.50	15.50	67.50
4	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.50	4.50	10.00	18.00	78.00
4-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.70	5.00	11.00	20.00	88.00
5	Wh/Gr	RT or RS	3.25	5.80	13.50	25.00	110.00
6	Wh/Gr	RT or RS	4.00	6.50	16.00	31.50	135.00
6-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT	4.50	8.25	18.50	33.50	150.00

NOTE: Good rolled rims on 3", 3-1/2", & 4" RTs

RS=round standard (ht. = width); RT = round tub (height = 3/4 width)

PLASTIC PAN POTS

Very shallow — depth about 1/2 the width of the top.

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	250
5"	Wh/Gr	\$3.30	\$6.25	\$14.50	\$25.50	\$58.00
6"	Wh/Gr	4.00	7.75	18.00	33.50	78.00
6-1/2"	Wh/Gr	4.25	8.25	19.25	36.25	88.00
8"	Wh/Gr	6.40	12.00	28.00	54.00	129.00
10"	Wh/Gr	9.90	18.75	45.00	85.50	208.00

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TINY TUBS

2-1/8" wide x 1-3/4" tall

1-1/4" wide:

In White or Terra Cotta color

20 50 100 500
\$1.75 \$4.00 \$6.75 \$29.50

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With Saucers - Terra Cotta color

10 for \$3.00 25 for \$6.25 100 for \$20.00

WATER RESERVOIRS— for WICK-WATERING

Volume size	20	50	100	500
8 oz. (4" w. x 1-3/4" h.)	\$ 8.00	\$18.50	\$34.00	\$140.00
16 oz. (4" w. x 3" h.)	8.00	18.50	34.00	140.00
32 oz. (5-1/4" w. x 3" h.)	12.50	28.00	52.00	200.00

1/2 price for containers OR lids only.

Wicks not supplied.



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Soiless mixes and ingredients: 8 gal. maximum for one shipping charge. \$.25 extra for each additional gallon

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mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite

lime & trace of fertilizer

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like VH Mix, but fine vermiculite

and no fertilizer

PERLITE - aerates mix 1 gal. 1.75

VERMICULITE - helps hold water 1 gal. 1.75

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DOLOMITE LIME - reduces acidity 1 lb. 1.30

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SIZE	3	10	25
6" fits up to 3" pot	\$2.75	8.00	18.00
9" fits up to 5" pot	3.25	9.50	21.00
12" fits up to 5" pot	4.00	11.00	23.75
15" fits up to 8" pot	6.25	17.75	37.50
18" fits up to 8" pot	7.00	20.00	41.00

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PACKET: Instructions & 100 seeds\$5.25

#1 Standard; #2 Mini; #3 Variegata; or #4 Trailer

KIT: Packet plus pellets & container\$5.75

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purple, or maroon, or pink, or mini, or micro-mini

PACKET - 100 seeds & instructions\$4.50

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	Each	50 or more
1-1/4" rd green	10¢	8¢
1-1/4" rd terracotta	22¢	18¢
1-1/4" rd terracotta w/saucer	25¢	20¢
2-1/8" rd terracotta	6¢	5¢
2-1/4" rd gr or wh	7¢	6¢
2-1/2" rd gr or wh, sq. - gr.	8¢	7¢
3" rd tub - gr or wh rolled lip	10¢	8¢
3-1/2" rd tub - gr or wh rolled lip	12¢	10¢
4" rd tub - gr or wh rolled lip	14¢	12¢
5" rd pan - gr or wh	19¢	16¢
6" rd pan - gr	30¢	25¢
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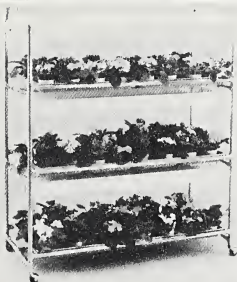
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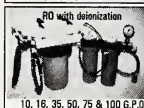
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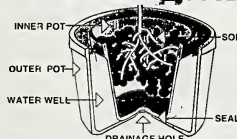
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West of Mississippi - \$4.00
Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$3.50 min.
Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax
Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code
and Phone Number
PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

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		4 oz.	12 oz.
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5-50-17	Variegated Special	1.25	3.50
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special	1.25	3.00
		4 oz.	16 oz.
20-20-20	General Purpose	1.25	3.00
15-30-15	House Plant Special	1.25	3.00
Dolomite Limestone		2 lbs./\$1.75	
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse	20 oz.	40 oz.
	No. 6 Medium	1.75	3.00
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	4 qts.	16 qts.
Perlite	Coarse	1.25	4.25
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		8 qts./\$2.75	

TROY Capillary watering mat — a full 4 feet wide
\$2.25 per running yard — whole yard lengths

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BOUNTY 6-2-2

8 oz. - \$2.99

16 oz. - \$5.25

STURDY

4 oz. - \$2.99

8 oz. - \$5.25

PLANT DINNER

8 oz. BOUNTY,

4 oz. STURDY +

Mixer Dispenser Bottle

\$6.35

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$5.95

32 oz. - \$9.95

1 gal. - 29.95

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1/2 oz. - \$1.98

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4 oz. - \$6.39

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 2-1/2"

4"-5"-6"

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PT 1300 Orthene

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Huntingdon Valley, Pa. 19006

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African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

July • August 1993

Volume 46

Number 4

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Violet

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**Official 1993
African Violet Postage Stamp**

Strictly Business — Your Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704 - phone 409-839-4725. Individual - \$15, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$17; Commercial USA - \$25; Commercial International - \$27; Life - \$200. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a New York, USA Bank. See Membership Application on page 1.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$15; Council, State or Region - \$30. **MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION:** Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntington Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards, how to organize a chapter or membership questions, write Bob Green, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Cindy Chatelain, Office Manager, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704, 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. CST.

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BINDERS FOR BACK ISSUES PRIOR TO JULY 1992: \$14.50 each or 2 for \$28.00.

SLIP CASE BOXES FOR BACK ISSUES PRIOR TO JULY 1992: \$12.50 each or 2 for \$24.00.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Ruth Warren, P. O. Box 3664, Fall River, MA 02722.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, P. O. Box 38, Oreland, PA 19075.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Anne Janitzen, 2725 Katrina Way, Mountain View, CA 94040.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: David Buttrman, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact J. R. Pittman, 12406 Alexandria, San Antonio, TX 78233.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Esther Edwards Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068 by Sept. 1.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs; interesting speakers to DeDe Whitaker, Convention Director, 2085 Leeward Lane, Merritt Island, FL 32953. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Denver, Colorado - May 23 - 28, 1994; St. Louis, Missouri - May 22-27, 1995; Atlanta, Georgia - May 20-25, 1996

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1992 HANDBOOK - \$9.95
REVISED PAGES for 1992 Handbook - \$1.50

NOTE: If your 1986 (yellow) handbook does not have the 1990 updated pages, you need the 1992 handbook AND the 1992 (\$1.50) updated pages.

IMPORTANT: When ordering revised pages, indicate Handbook you have.

JUDGES DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150. **JUDGING SCHOOL:** To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Ralph Breiden, 127 Via Los Altos, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

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AVM EDITOR: Jane Birge, P. O. Box 1401, Beaumont, Texas 77704; FAX 409-839-4329.

ARTICLES by Members & Columnists: Send to Editor. **COMING EVENT NOTICES:** Send to Editor.

"Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists & Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates & copy info: Diane Richardson, 9207 Ravenwood Rd., Baltimore, MD 21237; ph. 410-686-4667.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan. issue - Oct. 15; Mar. issue - Dec. 15; May issue - Feb. 15; July issue - Apr. 15; Sept. issue - June 15; Nov. issue - Aug. 15. ONLY currently paid Commercial Members may advertise.

SHOW TALK (Winners): Send to Darryl Hoover, 1812 W. Southgate, Fullerton, CA 92633

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office.

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FAILURE TO RECEIVE: Notify AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Jim Smith & Ralph Robinson, 489 Linwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL Number 6 - \$12.95 postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL Binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 ring binder.

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MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 1407 Calle Espana, San Dimas, CA 91773.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - \$25.00. Updates (when available) - \$25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members, only. Members renewing, receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Janet T. Riener, 256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd., Pennington, NJ 08534.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research, or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Frank Tinari, 2325 Valley Road, Huntington Valley, PA 19006.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$6.00 ppd. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets," The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Second class postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a nonprofit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$15.00 per year which is included in membership dues. Copyright 1993 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579
to African Violet Magazine, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704.

African Violet MAGAZINE

Vol. 46 No. 4

July • August 1993

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

ON THE COVER —THE 1993 AFRICAN VIOLET POSTAGE STAMP - unveiled at the 1993 AVSA Lancaster (PA) Convention/Show — first day of issue, October 8, 1993, Beaumont, Texas. (Related story on page 5 of this issue of the *African Violet* magazine.

Table of Contents

REGULAR FEATURES

3. The President's Desk - Hortense Pittman
4. Coming Events
4. Boyce Edens Research - Marlene Buck
6. AVSA Booster Fund - Ruth Warren
7. Question Box - Jim Smith
10. AVSA Office - Cindy Chatelain
17. Beginner's Column - Kent & Joyce Stork
20. AVSA Building Fund - Anne Jantzen
21. In Search of New Violets - Jeff Smith
23. A Family Portrait - Georgene Albrecht
28. Show Talk - Darryl Hoover
32. Registration Report - Iris Keating

PERTAINING TO VIOLETS

5. African violet stamp
11. Honor Roll of Violets - Floyd Lawson
16. Problem Solver - Lucille Prutsman
35. Ordering Leaves - Sharon Johnson
41. Those Fascinating Fantasies - Jeff Smith
46. Fill your home with Color - Sylvia Farnum
48. Container Gardens - Edna Rourke
50. It's Impossible ... - Diane Richardson

CONVENTION

25. Denver convention
26. 1993 Convention/Show Winners

26. Publications Award Winners
27. Hall of Fame
27. Honorary Life Membership
27. Honorary One-Year Memberships
27. Tinari Membership Award
27. Certificates of Appreciation
30. Bronze Medal
30. Hudson Award
30. Nominees Wanted
31. Denver convention awards
31. Continuing Service Award
38. Commercial Winners

SOCIETY BUSINESS

12. Library Survey
13. AVSA Library - Ralph Breden
13. Library Rules and Regulations
20. Membership Poll - Nancy Hayes

MISCELLANEOUS

9. Judging School
16. AVSA's Youngest Member
39. An Open Letter - Joyce Stenger
43. FORMing a Show Day Checklist
- Joyce Stenger
51. AVM Advertising Rates

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African Violet MAGAZINE

*The Official Publication
of The African Violet Society
of America, Inc.
a nonprofit organization*



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Index of Advertisers ...

A

- 53. African Violet Leaves
- 53. African Violets & More
- 52. African Violets by Grace
- 53. Alice's Violet Room
- 55. American Gloxinia
and Gesneriad Society
- 60. American Orchid Society
- 55. AV Enterprises Press
- 56. AVS of Canada

57. Lormar

M

- 52. Midland Violets

P

- 55. Patches and Pots
- 56. Plant Collectibles
- 52. Planters International

R

- 53. Rice's Hybrid Violets
- 60. Rob's Mini-o-lets
- 54. RollHouse

S

- 52. Salt Lake Embroidery
- 61. Schultz
- 59. Shirley's House of Violets
- 54. Southland African Violets
- 52. Spirit North

T

- 61. Teas Nursery
- 57. Travis' Violets
Back Cover
- Tinari Greenhouses

V

- 53. Verilux
- 52. Violet Creations
- 58. The Violet Express
- 63. The Violet House
- 56. Violets by Appointment
- 56. The Violet Showcase
- 53. Violets Plus
- 57. Volkmann Brothers

Z

- 53. Zaca Vista Nursery

B

- 59. Big Sky Violets
- 55. Bluebird Greenhouses

C

- 62. Cape Cod Violets
- 54. Country Road Violets
- 61. The Cryptanthus Society

D

- 59. Discus Haven

F

- 54. Florals of Fredericks

H

- Inside Back Cover
- HousePlant Magazine

I

- 53. Indoor Gardening Supplies

J

- 60. JF Designs
- 61. JF Industries
- 57. JoS Violets
- 56. Judy's Violets

L

- 64. Les Violettes Natalia

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From The President's Desk



Dear AVSA Members,

This issue announces some of the show winners from the Lancaster convention, as well as the AVSA Society award recipients. Once again, we reflect on a wonderful convention and take our hats off to the winners of all the awards.

The unveiling of the African violet stamp was a breathtaking moment for all our membership. Mr. James Tolbert of the U. S. Postal Service Stamp Management Department, was in attendance for this occasion, as well as Lancaster Postmaster William Sheehan. My special thanks to Anne Tinari for her efforts in achieving this long desired stamp. The first day of issue for these stamps will be in the first part of October. Details will be announced at a later date.

I want to say congratulations to the newly elected AVSA Directors who represent their respective regions. They are: Ruth Warren, Fall River, MA, who is currently serving as AVSA Booster Fund Chairman; Bev Promersberger, Monument, CO; Emilie Savage, Chillicothe, OH; Florence Naylor, Ventura, CA and our AVM Advertising Chairman, Diane Richardson of Baltimore, MD.

Marilyn Goldstein has been appointed AVSA Finance Chairman. Mrs. Bob Hummer has been appointed AVSA Courtesy Chairman. Please notify her of an illness or death of a member of the Board of Directors or their families. Her address and telephone number are: 10606 Sunflower Lane, San Antonio, TX 78213, phone 210-344-7928.

To the outgoing Directors, let me say you have served AVSA well, and you are still contributing by working on an AVSA committee.

In an effort to lower AVSA expenses, the AVSA Editor and Office Manager were not required to attend the convention this year. A committee headed by Sue Ramser did a fabulous job of manning the AVSA table with the help of many dedicated members. Everyone had fun spending time at the AVSA sales table. Thanks for good organizing, Sue, and to the many members who helped.

Summer is here and many of you are enjoying vacations. If your travels take you near one of our AVSA Commercial Members, give them a call and perhaps stop and say hello. Your September/October AVM lists all AVSA Commercial Members. Take it with you when you travel.

AVSA is a non-profit organization that offers instructive, interesting and enjoyable activities for all of its members. Each member has an obligation to the society to make it grow. Let us work together to keep our wonderful society growing and beneficial to its many members.

Happy growing,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hortense Pittman".

Hortense Pittman
AVSA President

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST 20 - 21 ILLINOIS — The African Violet Fanciers, Inc. sale/display, St. Charles Mall, Randall & Rt. 38, K-Mart Entrance, St. Charles. For information: Florise Hogan, 815-397-2000.

SEPTEMBER 3 & 4 ILLINOIS — The African Violet Fanciers Inc. sale/display, Freeport Lincoln Mall, US Rt. 20, West Freeport. For information: Florise Hogan, 815-397-2000.

SEPTEMBER 4 & 5 CALIFORNIA — Grow and Study Gesneriad

Club show/sale, "African Violet Family Reunion," Buena Park Mall, on La Palma, one block east of Beach Blvd. Sept. 4, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sept. 5, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information: Dale Martens, 310-694-3173.

SEPTEMBER 24 & 25 ILLINOIS — The African Violet Fanciers Inc. sale/display, Colonial Village Mall, Alpine & Newburg, Rockford. For information: Florise Hogan, 815-397-2000.

OCTOBER 2 & 3 MICHIGAN —

Michigan State AVS annual show/sale, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Oct. 2, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Oct. 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open to the public, free admission. For information call: 517-631-6129 or 517-835-9864. Loreen Callentine, show chair.

OCTOBER 8 & 9 OREGON — Portland AVS sale, Eastport Plaza, 4020 S.E. 82nd Ave., between Powell & Holgate, Portland. Oct. 8, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Oct. 9, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free admission. For information: Jeanette Florke, president, 26185 S. Hillock Burn Rd., Estacada, OR 97023, 503-630-9871.

OCTOBER 10 & 11 ILLINOIS — Glenview/North Shore AVS display/sale, Botanic Gardens, Lake-Cook Road just east of Edens Expwy.

OCTOBER 22 & 23 ILLINOIS — The African Violet Fanciers, Inc. sale/display, North Towne Mall, North Main & Riverside, Rockford. For information: Florise Hogan, 815-397-2000.

JUDGING SCHOOLS

JULY 10 - NEW MEXICO — AVSA Judging School sponsored by the Saintpaulia Society of Santa Fe. For information: Gary Wells, Chair, 2104 Saturn Place N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87112 or Barbara Elkin, Teacher, 2855 Gayle Lane, Auburn, CA 95602, ph. 916-878-0505.

AUGUST 21 - CALIFORNIA — AVSA Judging School sponsored by the Northern California Judges Council, at the San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way, San Francisco. Gary Beck, Teacher. Pre-register by August 1 with: Anne Jantzen, Judging School Chair, 2725 Katrina Way, Mountain View, CA 94040, 415-969-2558.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

MARLENE BUCK
P. O. Box 38
Oreland, PA 19075

Contributors Please Note: When making a donation be sure to include the way you want your club's name listed in the AVM. Also, be sure and list the correct city and state where your club is located. Donations received from January 20, 1993 through March 20, 1993:

Green Thumb AVC, Fayetteville, AR.....	10.00	Redondo Beach, CA	10.00
Mrs. Greg AVS, St. Paul, MN in lieu of Christmas presents ...	10.00	Tustana AVS, Costa Mesa, CA	10.00
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Bakersfield AVS, CA in memory of Lucile Warner	25.00	Pacific NW Judges Council, Seattle, WA	50.00
Wisconsin Judges Council, Elm Grove, WI	5.00	Capitol City AVS, Montgomery, AL in lieu of travel expenses from Mrs. Jean Hicks	10.00
Silvermine AVS, Westport, CT in lieu of speaker's fee for Edna Rourke	20.00	Capitol City AVS, Montgomery, AL in lieu of travel expenses from Mrs. Anne Bamman	10.00
Diablo Valley AV Growers, Concord, CA in memory of Pauline Rice	50.00	Corpus Christi AVS, TX in lieu of award cups to Jeanette Kocurek	100.00
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Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council St. Louis, MO	10.00	Suburban AV Enthusiasts, St. John, IN in memory of Rose Marie Burback, a very active and dedicated charter member of SAVE	25.00
Orange County AVS, Brea, CA	25.00	Nite Bloomers AVS, San Jose, CA	25.00
South Coast AVS,		AVS Hawaii, Honolulu, HI	15.00

Anne Tinari makes it happen!

At the Saturday night banquet meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., where some 500 members and guests attended, a very beautiful pink African violet stamp was unveiled.

James Tolbert from the USPS Stamp Management Office told the audience the new African violet stamp was the first stamp approved by the U.S. Postmaster General Marvin Runyon after he took office in 1992.

Mr. Tolbert was intro-

duced by the Lancaster Postmaster William M. Sheehan who attended the very festive banquet and with Anne Tinari, AVSA Membership & Promotion Chair, they unveiled the beautiful stamp to cheers and great applause.

The beautiful portrait of the unveiled stamp is on display at the office in Beaumont, TX, where it can be appreciated by all our members.

The First Day of Issue will take place in Beaumont, TX,

October 8, 1993.

All members of the society are invited to attend the ceremonies.

For those who were not in attendance at the week long convention and show, many spectacular plants were displayed on pink skirted tables which added a uniform appearance that complimented each and every plant displayed.

There were five commercial displays. Violeters from 38 states and five other



Present at the auspicious occasion of the unveiling of the 29¢ African violet postage stamp were USPS Stamp Management representative, James Tolbert; AVSA Membership and Promotion chair, Anne Tinari; and Postmaster for Lancaster, PA, William M. Sheehan.

countries attended the convention.

The Tri-State Council of New Jersey sponsored this very successful convention. Frank Senna was Convention chair.

Many interesting seminars and presentations on growing African violets were held.

Dr. Charles Cole of Texas A&M University, who has worked on many of our research grants for a number of years, was most popular and available.

He answered questions and discussed many problems with members on growing, pests, and environmental factors of our favorite houseplant.



Anne Tinari, AVSA Membership and Promotion chair stands proudly by the newly unveiled African violet stamp. First day of issue will be October 8, 1993, in Beaumont, Texas.

AVSA Booster Fund

RUTH E. WARREN,
P.O. Box 3664, Fall River, MA 02722

The Booster Fund has received monies to make it possible for some of the furnishings for the AVSA office.

We have reached the half way mark and hope at the next publication of the AVM that we will have attained our goal.

The Booster Fund still has pins and patches from past conventions, proceeds of which go into the Booster Fund.

If you missed a convention, lost a pin, misplaced a patch and want to complete your collection, please write to Ruth Warren and she will be most happy to send them to you.

All reasonable contributions will be accepted.

The Booster Fund sold lovely hand-painted African violet

Christmas tree ornaments at the Lancaster convention.

These can be ordered and we guarantee delivery before Christmas 1993.

Please write to Ruth as soon as possible and state the color African violet that you would like on the order.

All orders must be pre-paid. The cost is \$15.00 per ornament.

Please add \$1.00 for postage. These are beautiful — order one for yourself and one for a "violet friend."

AVSA and I truly appreciate your continued support.

We hope all our affiliate clubs had successful spring shows and those who show in the fall, have a good growing summer

and delightful exhibits in the fall.

Contributions:

France Victoire	20.00
Wisconsin Judges Council	5.00
Rocky Mountain AVC	50.00
AVS Denver Chapter One	10.00
Sweetwater AVS	25.00
Tustana AVS	10.00
Bay Area Gesneriad Society	25.00
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council	10.00
Barbara Clark in memory of Roberta Tate	10.00
Paumanok AVS	10.00
Long Island AVS	10.00



QUESTION BOX

JAMES SMITH & RALPH ROBINSON

489 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209



Question: How can you tell if an African violet variety is a single crown variety or a multiple crown variety? Often when purchasing violets from markets, they are unlabeled and are a mess. They are not groomed properly and multiple crowns are left to grow wildly. A nursery told me that only trailers were true multiple crowned varieties. How can you tell if a variety is a trailing variety?

Answer: The nursery is correct, only trailers are multiple crowned. To be entered in an African violet show, a trailer must have three crowns growing from the central stem. The best and sure way to identify the type of variety, is to know the name. Every variety registered with AVSA must have a complete description and must be named. Each variety must be classified as to type such as miniature, semiminature, standard or trailer. AVSA compiles a list of registrations in book form that is available from the AVSA office. This book is called The Master Variety List. The cost is \$12.95, postpaid. As more plants are registered throughout the year, an MVL supplement is published in the AVM. An experienced grower can usually tell from an unlabeled plant what type the plant is by looking at the foliage structure. Miniatures and semiminatures tend to have smaller leaves,

while standards have a larger leaf structure (usually), and the crowns and stems of trailers are more prominent in terms of growing to one side of the pot. Even at a young age, trailers start producing stems growing from the central crown. Growing the different types of violets will help train the novice grower's eye in recognizing the different types. As for purchasing unlabeled and poorly groomed plants from the market, I usually refrain unless I am fairly certain that the plant can be saved and later identified. Only named varieties can be entered in African violet shows.

The issue of markets selling unlabeled violets has always been a concern to me. Unfortunately, these may be seedlings (not named) or the shipper has purposely not applied an identification label to the pot. Some markets remove these labels not knowing how important they are to the grower. You might state this concern to the manager who can pass this message on to the hybridizer and/or supplier.

Question: I have problems with the leaves curling down around the side of the pots. It could be due to the cold temperatures in my basement which hover around 62 degrees during the winter. I joined an African violet club and read some

back issues of the AVM, but I could not find any help or suggestions concerning this problem.

Answer: Your first good move was to join an African violet club. The association provides good fellowship. Good luck! The curling of leaves could be due to cold temperatures. Try covering the light stand with plastic. This is what I do during the winter months and my foliage problems are less severe. The tight centers could also be due to the cold weather. It could also be caused by a mite infestation. Since I am not there to inspect your collection, I can't recommend that you spray your plants. Try to have one of the more knowledgeable club members take a look at your collection. If mites are suspect, the signs are the following: slight graying at the center, leaves are brittle, hard, and stunted, the buds are deformed, twisted and stunted. If it appears that mites are not the problem, then the cold temperatures could be, and you need to correct it. The temperature for growing African violets should be between 75 degrees during the daylight hours, and 65 degrees during the night. This winter has been especially hard for me. I lost several plants due to the cold temperatures, something that I must correct.

Question: I understand what

to do with necks on most violets, but what do you do when a trailer gets a neck? I have trouble keeping my trailers bushy. Any suggestions?

Answer: Frequent repotting will prevent necks from forming. Continuous removal of the outer rows of the violet's foliage, will produce plants with elongated crowns, or necks. To correct this situation, remove the plant from the pot and cut away at least one third of the root ball. Repot the plant into a clean pot with fresh soil. This treatment can be used on all African violets.

To keep trailers bushy, I have learned that pruning the foliage at least an inch as the plant matures, keeps the growth lush and thick. By "pinching" an inch from each stem, you will force new growth which promotes good form. Sometimes it is easier to restart a trailer by pinching off a small section of a stem and restart it. All trailers are

judged on form. This means that the foliage must be growing evenly around the pot. All trailers must have three stems growing from the main crown in order to qualify for a blue ribbon.

Question: I have enclosed some of the leaves from my violets so that you might be able to tell me what I am doing wrong. Some of the foliage is turning yellow and they lack bloom. I water each time with a good fertilizer; they receive 10 hours of fluorescent light; the temperature averages about 72 degrees. I can't seem to stop the yellowing from happening!

Answer: Your leaves arrived crushed beyond recognition, so they were not useful to me. You didn't mention how often the plants were repotted. After reading the description concerning your problem, your letter asked about soil pH. I have had growers write me about foliage problems only to discover that they don't repot often enough. The

pH factor is very important to plant health. If the pH is too acidic or too alkaline, trace elements are "locked up" in the soil and are unavailable to the plant. Signs of this problem will show up as marks (streaks), blotches on the foliage, the plant fails to grow and the foliage will become stunted or yellowed. Over a period of time the peat moss in the soil ages and breaks down and causes the soil to become acidic. You can either correct the pH balance chemically, or (more preferably) by repotting into fresh soil. There are several pH test kits that are available at your local garden supply. They include very detailed instructions for testing your soil. If you use a reputable-commercially prepared soil mix, the pH has been tested and will not be a concern.

I would say that your problem is that you may not be repotting often enough. To be on the safe side, repot at least twice a year at six month intervals. If pH test kits are not available in your area, contact your local department of agriculture. They may have a program for testing soils. If it would be more convenient, you may send me a teaspoon of DRY soil. I will test the pH and reply with the results. The cost will be \$2.25 to cover materials and postage (so that I don't go broke). If you are interested, send me a sample of your soil; I'll test it and we can go from there. If you are planning to send plants/leaves for me to inspect, I strongly recommend that you BOX them and send them airmail. I can't begin to tell you how many mushed leaves I receive for inspection.

Question: I have been read-



COLUMBUS (OH) AVS recent show winners were: Evelyn Grinstead, Best in show, *Picasso*, 2nd Best in Show, *Chiffon Masquerade*, Best Miniature, *Hart's Snow White* and the AVSA Collection, *Picasso*, *Vince's Choice* and *Sweet Mama*; Mary Martin, *Little Tex*; Mildred Lusk, Best Gesneriad, *N. Christmas Holly*; Janice Beatty, Best Arrangement, "Flamenco Dancers"; Rose Hickok, Best Novice (not shown); Thelma Miller, Show Chair; and President Jane McCain.

ing the AVM since 1990 and keep coming across the mentioning of proper pH for violets. I understand the pH should be around 6.8, but I don't know much more. How do you measure the soil pH? How do you measure water pH? Can you buy a reliable pH meter for testing? If so, from where?

Answer: About 7 out of every 10 letters that I answer pertaining to violet troubles are directly related to the use of soils that do not promote good growth. Many people complain that the soil turns to "stone" between waterings; leaves become yellow and the plant dies. Without the knowledge of the proper care of African violets, WE become the plant's worst enemy. There are so many soil recipes from which to choose. They are worthless unless they promote healthy foliage, strong stems, and freely blooming plants. A good soil is rich in humus (leaf mold containing beneficial microorganisms — compost material), has good aeration properties (stays loose - doesn't stay soggy, but stays evenly moist), and measures between 6.5 to 6.8 pH. The last factor is the most important key in creating a base from which a plant can utilize the nutrients provided to the plant by the grower and from those already in the soil. pH is the measure of hydrogen ion concentration levels of acidity or alkalinity of a substance. The supply of the major elements: nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, through the use of a good grade fertilizer, is of no use to the plant if the soil is too acidic, or too alkaline. They become chemically unavailable to the plant, and it starves. The

pH of the water should be neutral (7.0), since the fertilizers added to it tend to be acidic. If you use a well balanced soil mix, you need not worry about the water's pH unless you use rain water (whole new can of worms).

Confused?

How do you measure and achieve proper pH? After you have made your batch of soil, moisten it and let it set for about two weeks. The soil can be tested by a kit purchased from a local

garden supply store. Electronic pH test meters are available, and I am told that they are fairly accurate and the cost is around \$20.00.

For more information on soil pH, I strongly recommend that you obtain *Growing To Show*, a manual written by Pauline Bartholomew, and read the chapter of "pH: a Vital Factor."

Using the proper soil is only one of the basic, sound foundations in growing quality African violets.

August 21, 1993
San Francisco County Fair Building
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way
San Francisco, CA
Teacher: Mr. Gary Beck

We invite you to attend the upcoming Judging School sponsored by the Northern California Judges Council.

Since the judges exam is optional, you can come for only the lecture and learn more about African violets.

8 am	Sign-in, coffee and doughnuts
9 am to noon	Lecture
noon to 1 pm	Lunch (bring bag lunch)
1 pm	Exam (allow about two hours)
Cost:	Lecture \$5.00 or Lecture and Exam, \$10.00

Registration: Pre-register by August 1st with:
Anne Jantzen, Judging School Chair
2725 Katrina Way, Mountain View, CA 94040
415-969-2558

Bring your AVSA Membership Card and a copy of the 1986 AVSA Handbook. Be sure all additions and corrections are up to date.

Judges taking a renewal exam and prospective student judges must bring three blue ribbons with entry tags signed by the Show of Judges' Chair — one of these ribbons may be from the design division or the "other gesneriads" classes.

AVSA Office Report

CINDY CHATELAIN

The AVSA office has changed office managers.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Cindy Chatelain (pronounced Chat e lane).

I began working for the office in November, 1992, as the assistant office manager.

Prior to working at this office, I worked for nine years as the head of the accounting department for Holiday Inn Beaumont Plaza.

I have been a member of AVSA for 20 years and was the president of two local clubs.

Although I do not currently have a judge's certificate, I was a judge for nine years and judged several local shows.

Judging was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had as a member of AVSA.

The knowledge I gained, the many beautiful people I met and the vast array of different and lovely plants I judged, made my years as an AVSA judge an accomplishment of which I am truly proud.

The Beaumont office exists to serve the members of AVSA.

We add new members, renew current members, receive and ship orders of merchandise offered by AVSA for sale to its members; answer questions when we can and refer questions we cannot answer to those people in the organization who can.

Every member of AVSA is important, whether they are a commercial or individual.

Our goal will be to serve the members in the most efficient, courteous, and reliable manner possible and to promote AVSA at every given opportunity.

I welcome any suggestions you may have that will help this

office to better serve the members' needs.

I look forward to working with all of the AVSA officers, directors, and committees in a positive and harmonious atmosphere.

Just a reminder to all affiliates, judges, and commercial members to get any change of officers or change of addresses in to the office before the end of July.

The September issue of the magazine lists the most current information on affiliates, judges and commercial members and we want this information to be as correct as possible.

I would also like to remind all members to send AVSA a change of address when moving.

We don't want you to miss a single issue of the magazine if your address changes.

The new African Violet Master List of Miniature and Semiminiature Cultivars Number 8 - 1993

is now available for sale from the AVSA office, for \$7.00.

The office hours are now 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Central) Monday through Friday.

This should allow all of our members on the east and west coasts to contact us during normal business hours.

If we have to leave the office during these hours, and there is no one available to answer the phone, we will leave the answering machine on.

Please leave a message and we will call you back immediately.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the officers and directors of AVSA who showed enough confidence in me to ask me to become the new office manager.

I will strive to maintain their confidence and trust so that AVSA will continue to grow and prosper into the next century.

I would also like to take a moment to thank Nancy Lawrence for her patience in working with me to learn all of the duties of the job.

Nancy has worked diligently for AVSA for over nine years.



THE DELAWARE AVS gold rosette went to Bessie Pyle, shown, holding *Desir*. The purple rosette went to Libby Behnke, shown, holding *Grape Slush*, at a recent show. Bessie also received the gold in 1A for a miniature collection.

THE AVSA

HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

FLOYD LAWSON
1100 Huntington Dr., #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

1982

Alouette #2787 (Fredette)
Amazing Grace #3688 (Soultz)
Ballet Anna #2890 (Geo. J. Ball Inc.)
Firebird #2818 (Granger)
French Lilac #2844 (Swift)
Gr. Starburst #2874 (Granger)
Gr. Sylvan Blue #2875 (Granger)
Joyful #3168 (Lyon)
Little Delight #3169 (Lyon)
Little Jim #3005 (Maas)
Millie Blair #3020 (Granger)
Pink 'N Ink #3173 (Lyon)
Sam (Lyon)
Winter Grape #2789 (Fredette)

1983

Abigail Adams #3226 (Fredette)
Beginner's Luck #2803 (Pritchett)
Cat's Meow #3238 (Swift)
Celine #3188 (Maas)
Dardevil (Burton)
Dyn-O-Mite #3440 (Lyon)
Gr. Cameo Queen #3863 (Granger)
Gr. White Cockatoo #3417 (Granger)
Pixie Pink #2599 (Lyon)
Red Wow (Lyon)
Sunlit Sugar Plum #4599 (Scott)

1984

Betcha #3144 (Swift)
China Pink #3429 (Fredette)
Chris (Maas)
Optimara Colorado #3152 (Holtkamp)

Coral Radiance #3672 (Lyon)
Dear Ellie #3439 (Lyon)
Gr. Wonderland #3419 (Granger)
Ms. Pretty #5225 (Anderson)
Sammye Ballard #3563 (Granger)
Sanibel #3377 (Leary)
Silver Lining #3629 (Fredette)
Snowy Trail #3678 (Lyon)
Sparkle Plenty #2786 (Egenites)
Tiger #3433 (Fredette)
Wanderlust #3786 (Granger)
Verna Lynn (Fredette)

1985

Autumn Honey #4462 (Groeneman)
Black Ace #3541 (Nadeau)
Cherry Frosting #4333 (Fredette)
Disco Dazzler #3909 (Lyon)
Gr. Carnival #4298 (Gr. Gardens)
Gr. Heart's Desire #3407 (Gr. Gardens)
Irish Angel #4054 (Annalee)
Kristi Marie #3914 (Lyon)
Polly Doodle #4339 (Fredette)
Rhaps. Barbara #6979 (Holtkamp)
Something Special #3668 (Nadeau)
Splish Splash n/r (Lyon)
Spring Fling #3553 (Nadeau)
Sundown #3598 (Utz)
Swamp Fever #4046 (Sisk)

1986

Chris Leppard #4636 (Maas)
Dominique #4345 (Fredette)

Fisher's Leone #4540 (E. Fisher)
Lady Baltimore #4337 (Fredette)
Love Bug #4513 (Lyon)
Marie Knoblock #4042 (Sisk)
Optimara Nevada #6964 (Holtkamp)
Optimara New Mexico #6583 (Holtkamp)
Snuggles #5018 (Lyon)
Spanish Moss #4045 (Sisk)

1987

Fisherman's Paradise #4843 (Sisk)
Gr. Desert Dawn #4050 (Eyerdom)
Optimara Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Happy Cricket #5726 (Hollada)
Interlude #4935 (Gr. Gardens)
Ms. Pretty #5225 (Anderson)
Winnergreen #4693 (Pittman)

1988

Camelot Pink #4293 (H. Eyerdom)
Cactus Rose #4147 (Fredette)
Crystallaire #4295 (H. Eyerdom)
Glittersweet #4431 (Fredette)
Gr. Valencia #4051 (Granger)
Kingwood Red #4308 (H. Eyerdom)
Summer Lightning #5023 (Lyon)
Trail Along N/R (Lyon)
Vibrant Val #3918 (Lyon)

1989

Anna Kreeck #5784 (Trent)
Big Bird #5155 (Fredette)
Christmas Candy-O #5032 (Groeneman)

Columbia #5450 (Eyerdom)
 Dumplin #3931 (Swift)
 Fairy Queen N/R (Fisher)
 Kiwi Dazzle #5888 (Snell)
 Mauna Loa #5336 (Eyerdom)
 Optimara Alabama #6542
 (Holtkamp)
 Splendiferous #5813 (Whitaker)
 Wrangler's Dixie Celebration
 #4490 (Smith)

1990

Boca Grande #5112 (S. Williams)
 Emilie Savage #5445 (Eyerdom)
 Frances Young #5890 (Pittman)
 Hart's Snow White #5590 (A. Hart)
 Melodie Kimi n/r (Sunnyside)
 Ming Blue #5823 (Eyerdom)
 Pay Dirt #4988 (P. Tracey)
 Wrangler's Jealous Heart
 #6225 (W. Smith)
 Wrangler's Pink Patches
 #6230 (W. Smith)

1991

China Pink #6434 (Fredette)
 Mickey Mouse n/r (Inpijn)
 Nortex's Snowfrill Haven
 #6045 (Johnson)
 Nortex's Snowkist Haven
 #6046 (Johnson)
 Optimara® Hawaii #6558
 (Holtkamp)
 Precious Pink #6025 (Pittman)
 Snow Rose #5985 (Whitaker)

1992

Dancin' Trail #5565 (Sorano)
 Falling Snow n/r (Tracey)
 Fickle Flirt #6738 (Sorano)

***To be on the Honor
 Roll of African Violets,
 a variety must have
 appeared on the Best
 Varieties list for five
 consecutive years.***

Library Survey 1993

RALPH BREDEN

The library committee seeks information from potential users, on video programs.

Please send your response to: Library Committee, Ralph Breden, 127 Via Los Altos, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

1. If AVSA Library had video programs, would your affiliate use them? _____

2. Do you have expertise in filming and/or editing video tapes? _____

3. Which of the following subjects would be of most interest to your affiliate (rate each: 1 being most interesting)?

_____ a. Video tape of national convention activities

_____ b. Video tape of national convention show

_____ c. Video tape of hands-on demonstration of African violet culture

_____ d. Video tape of putting together a winning design

_____ e. Video tape of trip through commercial growers facilities



BEST DESIGN at a recent First Lakeland (FL) AVS show was this dish garden by Evelyn Hutto.

AVSA Library

RALPH BREDEN

127 Via Los Altos

Redondo Beach, CA 90277

The comment forms returned with slide programs from affiliates have provided the Library Committee with valuable information toward improving library contents and operation.

Among the suggestions received, several have addressed the possibility of video programs. A survey questionnaire to solicit specific information regarding video programs is included in this issue of the AVM.

Arrangements have been made with members of the Beaumont (TX) African Violet Society to assist in the review, evaluation and update of all slide programs in the library. Some obsolete programs will be eliminated. Damaged slides will be replaced, and below standard cassettes will be replaced or eliminated.

At least two new slide programs will be added to the library this year. The Lancaster (PA) show slides — "More Pennsylvania Friends" and Ray Pittman's collection of new introduction slides — "Lancaster Lovelies."

An updated "Other Gesneriads" program and one on basic African violet culture are in the works.

It is still possible for Canadian affiliates to order specific programs through Betty Tapping. The two new programs mentioned above will be added to programs currently available.

Send requests, following the library rules, with payment, to: Betty Tapping
#1512-511, The West Mall
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9C 1G5, Canada.

Rules and regulations for use of library materials

Library materials are available for use by AVSA members and affiliates in good standing, subject to the following rules and regulations:

REQUEST FOR MATERIALS

Send requests to the AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, Texas 77704. If you do not have an AVSA order form please include in your request (1) Name of affiliate, (2) Name of person ordering and person's membership number, (3) Shipping address, (4) Name of slide program or packet, (5) Whether or not cassette (where available) is desired, (6) date to be shown. Order forms are included in shipment for future use.

SLIDE PROGRAMS

1. Make request for reservation three (3) months in advance of date desired, with information outlined above. Give first, second and third choices of slide programs for each reservation date.

2. Slide programs are shipped using a special shipping box. Please use the special box to return the slide program to the AVSA Office, immediately after scheduled reserved date. Return by UPS or First Class Mail only. For First Class, we request that you insure the program for \$50.00. If you use UPS, the package is automatically insured for \$100.00. For members in other countries: please return programs postpaid by the safest and most expeditious postal means available. A \$5.00 PENALTY WILL BE ASSESSED FOR ANY SLIDE PROGRAM NOT POSTMARKED WITHIN FOUR (4) DAYS AFTER SCHEDULED RESERVED DATE. Return programs to:

AVSA Office

2375 North Street

Beaumont, Texas 77702

3. Special requests for two or more slide programs for the same date may be made and will be filled whenever possible, but such requests are not encouraged because of the great demand for slide programs and the limited numbers available.

4. Cost of slide program with cassette is \$10.00; and cost of slide program without cassette is \$8.00. Only those slide programs in the descriptive list with a "(C)" after the titles have cassettes. Those programs may be reserved with or without the cassettes.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

SECTION I - CONVENTION SHOWS: Slide programs of outstanding exhibits at National Convention shows; especially entertaining for members not attending conventions.

143L "PHILLY FANTASY" (C) (80 SLIDES) — Best of the 1984 Philadelphia convention show entries - slides of African violets and related plants.

- 133L "AFRICAN VIOLETS, HOLLYWOOD STYLE" (C) (80 SLIDES) — Continue being entertained with prize-winning plants from 1985 Los Angeles Convention show, "Let Us Entertain You."
- 146L "STARS OF THE NORTH" (C) (80 SLIDES) — The award-winning violets exhibited at the 1986 St. Paul convention.
- 148L "THE FLORIDA EXPERIENCE" (C) (80 SLIDES) — Slides of winning plants and designs displayed in the Sunshine State at Orlando, 1987.
- 138L "A GRAND REUNION" (C) (80 SLIDES) — Meet the best of award-winning plants and designs from the Reunion in Dallas, 1988.
- 162L "A ROYAL TREAT" (C) (80 SLIDES) — Kansas City, 1989 — be treated royally with slide projections of beautiful plants and designs.
- 163L "THE NEW ENGLAND SPIRIT" (C) (80 SLIDES) — Experience the best of the award-winning plants and designs displayed The New England Way, Boston 1990.
- 166L "VIOLETS IN THE GOLDEN STATE" (C) (80 SLIDES) — Award-winning plants and designs from the Santa Clara convention 1991.
- 167L "A CENTURY OF VIOLETS" (C) (80 SLIDES) — An exciting presentation of award-winning plants and designs from Violet Heritage and Horizons Columbus 1992.
- 169L "MORE PENNSYLVANIA FRIENDS" (C) (80 SLIDES) — of award-winning exhibits at the 1993 Lancaster national convention show. (Available Oct. 1)

SECTION II - NEW INTRODUCTIONS: A series of programs compiled from slides of new cultivars submitted by hybridizers and commercial members.

- 142L "ORANGE BLOSSOMS SPECIALS" (C) (80 SLIDES) — "Specials" Slides of new cultivars in 1987. Submitted by hybridizers, amateur and commercials, compiled and narrated by J. R. Pittman.
- 141L "NEW RAYS OF HOPE" (C) (80 SLIDES) — The best of the new introductions in 1988; slides submitted by amateur and commercial hybridizers for compilation by J.

R. Pittman.

- 160L "FUTURE VIOLETS WITH A ROYAL FLAIR" (C) (80 SLIDES) — The 1989 contributions of new varieties submitted by amateur and commercial hybridizers. Program prepared and narrated with a flair by J. R. Pittman.
- 164L "BOSTON'S NEW BEAUTIES" (C) (80 SLIDES) — A capsule version of the "Beauties." Program prepared at the 1990 Boston convention by J. R. Pittman.
- 165L "NUGGETS AT THE GOLDEN STATE" (C) (80 SLIDES) — An abbreviated version of the new introduction program presented by J. R. Pittman at the 1991 Santa Clara, California convention.
- 168L "GEMS OF COLUMBUS" (C) (80 SLIDES) A collection of slides depicting the best new introductions at the 1992 Columbus, Ohio convention.
- 170L "LANCASTER LOVELIES" (C) (80 SLIDES) The best 1993 introductions shown by J. R. Pittman at the Lancaster convention. (Available Oct. 1)

SECTION III - AFRICAN VIOLET LIFE: A series of slide programs relative primarily to African violet culture and related subjects.

- 147L "THE AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT" (77 SLIDES) A good basic program, identifying leaf types, blossom form and colors, and diseases that affect the foliage.
- 140L "MULTIPLYING SAINTPAULIAS" (65 SLIDES) Basic program on African violet propagation including leaf cuttings, plant division, seed and grafting. Slides show how to produce and plant seeds.
- 150L "THE PITTMAN WAY OF GROWING VIOLETS" (C) (84 SLIDES) A step-by-step visual program on growing and grooming miniature and semiminature African violets.
- 153L "VIOLETS AND MORE VIOLETS" (79 SLIDES) A basic lesson for beginners on setting leaves, separating baby plants from mother leaf and dividing multiple crown plant sincluding suggestions on potting, repotting a large plant and a way to treat a necky plant.
- 151L "THE SAINTPAULIA SPECIES" (79 SLIDES) A comprehensive, educational, workshop

type program. Very thorough and somewhat technical. A dedicated work by Neva Anderson.

- 161L "POINTERS IN JUDGING" (C) (74 SLIDES) A revised version of workshop program for judges and exhibitors. Emphasis on grooming of plants in preparation for showing.

SECTION IV - GESNERIADS: Programs identifying African violet cousins, their care and propagation.

- 137L "GESNERIAD FAVORITES" (C) (75 SLIDES) A program donated to AVSA by the Houston Gesneriad Society...contains many beautiful plants with excellent culture and propagation information.

- 139L "MEET THE FAMILY" (C) (60 SLIDES) A vivid look at some of the other members of the gesneriad family, compiled and narrated by Margaret Waguespack. An informative program for those who want to broaden their growing horizons or for those who just want to "meet the family."

SECTION V - VIOLET PESTS AND DISEASES:

Slide programs identifying pests and diseases and the impact on African violet cultivars.

- 132L "AFRICAN VIOLET PESTS" (C) (52 SLIDES) A short, succinct program by Dr. Charles Cole with vivid illustration of common African violet pests.
- 152L "VIOLET TROUBLES" (63 SLIDES) Pests, diseases, and results of poor culture exhibited in the program. An oldie, but good basic information.

SECTION VI - SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Programs demonstrating use of African violets in unusual applications.

- 145L "SHOW OFF YOUR VIOLETS" (70 SLIDES) A program showing many ways to use African violets for home decoration, party favors and table arrangements.
- 131L "AFRICAN VIOLETS IN ARTISTIC DESIGNS" (60 SLIDES) A collection of arrangements and artistic plants using a Madonna or other accessory to enhance the design or to express theme of a class. Most slides are of award winners from shows. Basic

design for beginning designers.

PACKETS

1. Packets are loaned for a period of one month, as available.
2. Requests for two or more packets will be filled whenever possible.
3. Packets must be returned postpaid by FIRST, THIRD, or FOURTH CLASS MAIL.
4. Cost of each packet is \$2.00, and must be paid by check to AVSA at time of request.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PACKETS

- 155L JUST FOR FUN PACKET "A Violet Carol" Christmas skit in one act. A fun way to celebrate the holidays with a skit performed by your club members. This is an original skit written by Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, Nebraska and donated to the AVSA Library.
- 156L NEWSLETTER/MAGAZINE PACKET: This packet contains one sample from each entry exhibited at convention. Editors who wish to browse through other publications are urged to order this packet. Or, anyone desiring to start a newsletter or magazine would find this packet helpful. Includes a point score sheet on how the publications are judged.
- 157L PROGRAM PLANNING PACKET: Suggestions to help a program chair or committee plan the programs for a club's activities.
- 158L SHOWSCHEDULES PACKET: Showschedules of African violet shows from different sections of the country. Excellent for new ideas, and those clubs planning their first show.
- 159L YEARBOOK COLLECTION PACKET: This packet contains 12 yearbooks from various affiliate clubs. It contains one or more of the top prize winners from the recent AVSA convention competition. Especially recommended for clubs producing their first yearbook, and for those interested in submitting their yearbooks for competition. Includes point score sheets on how the yearbooks were judged.

PROBLEM SOLVER

LUCILLE PRUTSMAN

Rt. 4 Box 39

Nashville, NC 27856

Here I am, back again with another violet problem solved.

One sometimes has to become a real plant sleuth to ferret out all the questions about raising violets.

On recommendation, I destroyed all my violets 18 months ago, as it was thought I had botrytis.

I never did see any rotting centers or leaves (an indication of botrytis), on even one plant, in a collection of 500.

AVSA's Youngest Member

Congratulations are in order for Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Holtkamp, Jr., on the birth of a son, Lawrence Philippe Holtkamp, on March 2, 1993.

Lawrence Philippe is the fifth generation of this courageous family who has helped to make African violets a household word.

Sincere congratulations also for the proud grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Holtkamp, Sr., and their entire family.

(Editor's Note: Lawrence Philippe is an official, and the youngest AVSA member, thanks to Anne and Frank Tinari of Tinari Greenhouses.)

I continued to use fans, day and night, for air circulation, plus spraying weekly with Dacnil.

I continued to use it bi-weekly, then monthly, for some time.

All this spraying was entirely too often and it did not cure my original problems of slow growth, yellowish pointed leaf centers and bad looking plants.

In fact, it produced another problem.

I believe too much spraying with a fungicide, actually stunts plant growth.

By the following spring, I had the smallest plants in the club. And few blooms!

Something had to be done or I was going to "throw in the towel."

I ordered soil from a commercial dealer and repotted everything.

The plants improved dramatically, with fresh growth in the centers.

I removed outer leaves for rooting, as centers grew, but not before adding many, many plants to the trash.

Those transplanted from the rooting trays, in my opinion, grew better than those in my regular potting mix.

I became very suspicious of that old mix and began studying back issues of the magazine.

I read about other club members having problems with slow plant growth and pointed center leaves, just like mine. They found it to be caused by

poor peat moss.

Could that be my problem?

I checked the bag and sure enough, the name brand peat I'd bought and had been using these past 18 months, was not Canadian sphagnum, as recommended, but produced elsewhere.

After purchasing the correct peat moss, and returning to my old soil mix, I am definitely on the road to recovery — again!

I had been using Rapid-Gro 23-19-17 or 20-20-20 for some time, but still had problems with yellowing leaves, until I began misting weekly with the same solution.

Now, my plants are a good, healthy green, loaded with buds. I also spray weekly with Safer's to deter any pests.

The violets are beautiful, gorgeous, outstanding and all those other great adjectives that describe great violets.

Hang in there folks, eventually you can become a problem solver, too.

**Start
making
plans now
for the 1994
AVSA
Convention
and Show
in
DENVER!**

BEGINNERS COLUMN

KENT & JOYCE STORK
2501 East 23rd Avenue
Fremont, Nebraska 68025



Violets that just keep on going, and going, and going ...

Last year, we did a column on transplanting violets and invited growers from around the country to share some stories of plants that they had grown continuously for years. We promised to let you know who had the oldest. So who claims the winner? We'll get to that, but first let's look at some of the others.

NO NAME BUT LOVED JUST THE SAME

It seems that one does not need an extensive collection or a sophisticated growing system to keep violets alive for a long time. One writer, Betty A. Lecza in Connecticut, has kept an unknown variety alive for over 20 years. She is not sure exactly how old it is, because she received it from her mother. She remembers its origins by connecting it to their first home where they lived for 12 years before moving to their current home for the last 16 years. Although she did use a fluorescent light for a time, she has depended on natural light since they moved.

Betty regrets that she

doesn't know its name. She describes it as "a pink variety with dark (red underneath) leaves." She doesn't recall that it has ever had a disease problem, and she mentions several times that it blooms continually.

We often joke in this column about violets getting bounced on, knocked off, and roughed up. Betty proves that this is no joke! She says this plant has had a tough existence living with her four children and getting "dumped many times — always coming back." It's been two years now since it had a bad accident. Her son got married and was moving out. "You guessed it," she writes, "he knocked it over."

What is this unknown variety's secret to longevity? The fact that it blooms, is disease resistant, and was a gift from her mother probably, explains Betty's affection for her plant. But she deserves some credit too. She modestly states, "Outside of occasional repotting (because it will grow a neck) it really doesn't get any special treatment." That

occasional repotting makes this amateur grower a skilled horticulturist. Thanks, Betty, for sharing!

HER PLANT IS A "SHE"

Another writer, Jane Cobb of Texas, affectionately refers to her "Wedgewood Blue" as a "she." Jane can date this plant back to a Santa Monica, CA, violet show in May of 1968. She keeps less than 20 violets most of the time, and describes her original plant as "a friend and joy to me for almost 25 years." It has bluish-light purple double flowers, and large green leaves with deep red undersides. Jane describes it as a good grower which blooms year round.

Jane, like Betty, grows in natural light. She recently had to face the dangers of a move from southern California to central Texas, a decidedly different climate. She had the familiar problem of moving during cold weather, carrying plants in and out of motel rooms each night. The new home has a heated and cooled garden room with lots of light. She uses wick watering now,

and says that she tends to "repot and fertilize based on how they look."

Through the years, Jane has had to deal with disasters too. She cites "cat attacks" and one serious disease which affected her entire collection. She notes that "Wedgewood Blue" was one of the only plants that she didn't have to preserve by starting a leaf during that time.

Jane also notes that it seems that many growers do not keep records on their plants. Knowing her violet's history seems to have added substantially to Jane's love for her plant. We hope that her violet friend stays with her for a long time!

A SANTA MONICA CONNECTION

Olwen Gould, of Santa Monica, CA, may have been at the same show that Jane attended. She has a "Plain and Fancy" that she says "has got to be 18 to 20 years old." She describes it as having pink

flowers with tiny leaves on the flower stem.

Olwen has had to save her plant from death several times too. She bemoans the fact that even though she shares plants with friends, that often they kill their violets with overwatering. Mastering the art of watering seems to be a huge hurdle for many would-be violet enthusiasts.

Keeping the proper name with the plant is a challenge for some violet growers, and Olwen is uncertain of what to do when she receives a plant with no name. If the grower-giver doesn't care about variety names, then its heritage is lost. With thousands of named varieties, it is virtually impossible to correctly label a plant whose name has been misplaced. That shouldn't stop anyone from loving the no-name violet or even giving it a nickname, but it does make it improper to enter the plant in an AVSA show.

INHERITED VIOLETS

Sharon McAuliffe of Stillwater, MN, writes of her grandmother's violets, which must be at least 35 years old. Sharon knows they were purchased sometime before 1958, because her grandmother became ill

that year. After her death, Sharon's mother took over the care of about a dozen violets. Mom was apparently not as skilled a grower, because "by 1970, only three were alive and those just barely." Sharon adopted them, but managed to save only two.

Like the other growers, Sharon assures us that these are the original plants which were transplanted many times by scraping the neck and lowering them in the pot.

She calls her two plants "Grams," but she too would love to identify them officially. "Both my 'old' violets are pink singles; one's petals are slightly ruffled," and she adds that both are frequent bloomers. Since pink varieties were less common in the 50s, she hopes that perhaps one of our long-time violet growers would be willing to help identify them.

Perhaps there is a human genetic tendency to love violets; so many of us have a mother or grandmother who grew them first. We're sure that Grams would have been pleased to know that Sharon inherited not only the plants, but also her affection for them and the skill to keep them going.

GRANDMOTHER STRIKES AGAIN!

A late entry, Penny Wichman of Union, KY, sent a photo of her unnamed (she calls it 'Margaret') variety given to her by her grandmother, Margaret, of course, in 1963. She said, "Our neighbors who raised sheep had given me a lamb planter,



Penny Wichman's "Margaret," given to her in 1963.

and I needed a flower to put in it." She was three years old at the time.

She describes it as having light pink double blossoms, and light green leaves with red undersides. It blooms almost continuously.

It too, has gone through some traumatic circumstances. "It is a very hardy variety, even surviving when my mother transplanted it into soil she got out of the garden. It also survived a drastic potting down because before I joined the Cincinnati African Violet Society, I did not know about necks, and it had quite a long one."

Penny also commented that it seems to do just as well in natural light as it does under fluorescent light. She, too, would like to know its true name.

THE WINNER IS "SUPERMAN"

The oldest reported violet is currently in the collection of a very well-known and dear African violet grower and hybridizer, **Ethel Champion**, of Clay, NY. Her plant called 'Superman' is a violet which she grew from the seeds of the very first hybrid cross she ever made. Here is her letter:

"In the late 40s I saw a spectacular plant at a neighbor's home near ours in Greene, New York. It was a multicrowned plant, a single purple with many, many flowers. Perhaps it was a sport of 'Blue Boy.' It was one gorgeous specimen. I was given leaves, grew plants and later crossed it with 'Double Duchess,' the first double

violet, I believe. Seeds were planted in February, 1952, and 'Superman' was the result of that cross.

"'Superman' is a double purple with an unusual amount of blossoms, 40 to 50 on each flower stem, though the flowers are small, about an inch across. It grows large; our children named it 'Superman' because of its size.

"Years ago, when I realized the unusual flower count, I was planning to shock the violet world with great blooming violets, but it was not to be. I did use it for crosses but found the high flower count was tied to the small blossoms. High count — small flowers. Larger flowers — normal count.

"'Superman' has had an eventful life, been entered in many shows and last won a blue ribbon in 1989. It is much talked about and shown to those who visit my shop. People are always surprised that, except for the small flowers, it does not look old.

"To maintain it, it is repotted once a year, roots pruned and leaves removed to keep it small. Over the years it has not always had the best of care, and there have been several times when I would find it ailing and thought that I



THE CHAMPION — 'Superman,' by Ethel Champion!

might lose it. But then it goes into intensive care. The poor roots are cut away, and it is potted in damp vermiculite. Plant and pot are sealed in a plastic bag. When it firms up and shows growth it is slowly removed from the bag over a period of perhaps two weeks. Then it is potted in soil again and started over. With this method the original plant can be saved.

"It is presently in excellent health, growing fast, measures 15 inches across and will be repotted one more time. It is on a show plant schedule and will go to the next violet show in 1993."

WE CHALLENGE YOU TO KEEP THEM GROWING

Ethel's story is one of inspiration for us. It would be hard to imagine that many growers could top her record for longevity in a single plant. She is obviously one of the most knowledgeable growers ever! Nonetheless, Betty, Jane, Olwen, Sharon and Penny have also been very successful

growers!

Violets are able to constantly produce new leaves and to continue growing and thriving.

The secret is in repotting when the plant needs it, responding to attacks from

children, cats, disease and whatever else, and in caring enough to preserve its indomitable spirit.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

A potential long-living violet

is sitting on your shelf right now. Do what you can to extend its life to the limit.

Do you suppose Willard Scott would stick around long enough to celebrate with Ethel's 100-year-old 'Super-man'??

An exciting adventure

Membership Poll

NANCY HAYES

Tabulating this poll was an exciting task for me. The response was so immediate, it was apparent right up front that you, our members, were pleased that we asked your opinion.

To have nearly 30% response from our membership is amazing. Keep in mind that responses continue to arrive because dues renewal notices and surveys are still being mailed.

Those of you who have not received your surveys, please send them when you do get them, as your response is just as important as those already received.

This project of the Future Directions Committee is a year-long event, with the final report due at the Denver AVSA convention in May of 1994.

There are many interesting facts to be gleaned from the survey already, and yet there is much work yet to be done.

Over 45% of our life members replied. Hats off to this tremendous group of members.

Another 40% of you took your time to write comments. Many of these comments were thanks for a job well done; others offered criticism, but often

coupled with constructive suggestions.

Undoubtedly, one of the strengths of the poll will be the in-depth study of these com-

AVSA Building Fund

ANNE JANTZEN
2725 Katrina Way
Mountain View, CA 94040

I could have

I would have

I should have

STOP MAKING EXCUSES!

Support the Building Fund.

Contributions from
Feb. 1 - 28, 1993
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Don L. Thornburg, CA \$15.00
Wisconsin Judges Council..... 5.00
North Texas AV Judges Council
in memory of Brennen Forcht,
husband of Ecy Forcht 10.00
Bay Area Gesneriad
Society, TX 25.00
Metropolitan St. Louis
AVC 100.00
Edward Martin, NJ 10.00
Judges Council of Minnesota

in memory
of Lorraine Nelson 15.00
AVSA Convention Fund,
Columbus, OH - profits
from raffle of quilt 1,000.00

Total for the month - \$1,180.00
TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS
- \$84,243.00

Contributions from
March 1 - 31, 1993
March, 1993

Hortense Pittman, TX
in lieu of transportation fee
from First Austin AVS..... 25.00
Don L. Thornburg, CA 15.00
Northern CA Council
of AVS 50.00
Don L. Thornburg, CA
in memory
of Betty Whelan, faithful
and longtime member
of AVS of the East Bay 10.00

Total for the month - \$100.00

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS
- \$84,343.00

ments and that will take time.

Keep those completed surveys coming in. We promise you that much work will be done on your behalf in the coming year.



In Search of New Violets



DR. JEFF SMITH
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana 47306

One of my research areas in African violets has been the inheritance of flower color.

Although lists of dominant and recessive colors have been previously published, some colors are intermediate and can't be listed as a simple dominant or recessive.

In these cases, the color can be both, depending on what they are compared to.

The following table may help to clarify these instances:

Dominant

Blue
Red
Lavender
All Colors
Non-Coral Colors
Coral Red
Pale Shades

Recessive

All other flower colors
Pink, White
Red, Pink, White
White
Coral Colors
Coral Pink
Dark Shades

Q: When I cross two plants with Lavender colored flowers, why do I get so many different colors in the seedlings?

A: Lavender is a result of two

colors, Pink and Blue, being expressed at the same time.

The offspring inherit *either* the Pink or the Blue trait from a Lavender parent, but not both. In other words, Lavender cannot breed 100% true.

Your best hope for Lavender offspring is to cross two Lavenders together and accept that 50% or more of the offspring may be some other color.

Q: How can I breed a Fantasy pattern like 'Black Jack' on another background color besides blue?

A: 'Black Jack' is indeed an interesting Fantasy type, having blue blossoms flecked with white.

It should be relatively easy to get this pattern on another background color, but it will likely take two generations.

First, cross 'Black Jack' to your chosen color parent. Since Blue color and Fantasy are usually dominants, your first generation (F1) offspring will likely be Blue and some will have the Fantasy pattern.

These F1 plants, however, will carry your chosen color as a recessive.

Next, backcross your best F1 Fantasy to the chosen color parent.

Some of the backcross off-

spring should have the Fantasy pattern on your chosen color. With luck, about 25% of the backcross offspring will be what you were breeding for.

Alternatively, cross the two best Fantasy F1 plants together. Most of the F2 (2nd generation) plants will be blue Fantasy, but some should be Fantasy on your chosen color. Good luck!

Q: How long does it take from start to finish to hybridize a plant?

A: Oh boy! I think I just heard every hybridizer grind their teeth on this one.

The answer depends on *when* you consider the plant to be "finished."

In some cases your desired results may appear in the 1st generation (if you're really lucky), but in others (most of the time it seems) you might have to work through several generations of crosses to obtain the desired outcome.

It usually takes me about 1 year for each generation I cross (seed set, 4-6 months; seed drying, 1-2 months; seed germination to flowering, 3-6 months).

Many of my crosses will take 2-3 generations to get the desired combination of traits I aimed for. Then, I have to test

the plant via cuttings, etc.

Even after all that time, none of the offspring may truly have what I wanted in the cross and I have to start over.

In summary, it frequently takes a *long* time from start to "finish" to hybridize a plant.

Q: Why do my coral colored flowers fade with age? Can this be prevented?

A: The coral colors are the result of a genetic mutation that causes the loss of a sugar molecule from the pigment.

As a result, the color pigments are more unstable and are more likely to break down or fade with age.

I don't know of a way to totally prevent fading, but keeping the plant cool and away from hot lights, etc., will help the coral colors last longer. They will still fade over time, however.

Modern coral cultivars are more stable than were the older cultivars.

Hybridizers have been able to make the coral colors more stable so perhaps choosing your cultivars carefully for this trait will help.

Check with your local club members for their experiences or see which cultivars seem to have the freshest looking flowers at your show.

Q: If I get a plant that has many good traits, but it has one bad trait like dropping flowers, should I throw it out and not use it for future breeding?

A: It depends on how serious you feel the bad trait is.

I have sometimes kept a plant with a single dropping flower just because it was so easy to get seed to set on it.

I did have to use plants with double flowers (a genetic domi-

nant) each time so that the offspring would not inherit the dropping trait (a recessive).

For my purposes, this was an acceptable compromise since the dropper parent had so many other qualities I was breeding for. You will have to make a similar judgement call for your own case.

Special Note:

I am trying to gather a wide collection of the species and their hybrids for a DNA fingerprinting study. If you have any of the following, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Needed:

Saintpaulia pusilla, *S. inconspicua*, and any species based hybrids (species X species, or species X cultivar).



BEST STANDARD AVSA COLLECTION, *Emiko*, *Tiger* and *Rainman*, was won by Lea Plaire at a recent First Lakeland (FL) AVS show.

Support the Boyce Edens Research Fund

Send contributions to:

Marlene Buck

P. O. Box 38

Oreland, PA 19075



A FAMILY PORTRAIT

GEORGENE ALBRECHT
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Sinningia 'Apricot Bouquet'

Jean Stokes of Mighty Minis of California, encouraged me to grow this little treasure; noted for its wonderful fragrance which reminds me of pineapple, sage and mint. The shrubby growth needs pinching if you intend to grow a low, pot plant. The leaves make a great garnish during the winter months when fresh mint is scarce. *Sinningia* (sin-NIN-gee-ah) 'Apricot Bouquet' registered with the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society (AGGS) by Conner, produces lovely apricot blooms that fade to a warm pink and have delicate lavender spots inside the petals. Foliage is a velvety, medium green with perfectly spaced scalloped edges.

The plant is easy to grow out of a humidity container. Give it about 800-1000 footcandles of light in order to keep it compact. Growth will be spindly and blooms sparse if light is insufficient. Any good, light soil mix is fine. Avoid overfeeding. Tip cuttings of six mature leaves root easily. Remove the two bottom leaves before inserting in vermiculite or other rooting medium. Cover the cutting and in about eight weeks it will form roots. Spring time is best for taking cuttings. After roots have formed for several months, watch for a tuber to form. This process has always fascinated

me. They, like violets, like to have fresh soil mix often. Never toss cuttings because they are fragrant enough to add to any potpourri mix. Average household temperatures and humidity will do just fine. If growths become unruly, just tuck the longer stems back into the pot and add some fresh soil; they will root.

If the blooms become heavy, green florists wire can be added for support. Just make a hook on the end, bend it down to form a nice ring to fit onto the stem. Be careful not to puncture the tuber.

Notes on Species

These notes were taken from a program Diane Richardson presented at the New York State Convention in 1992. Most of the species need very little light, much less than the hybrids of today and the other gesneriads. Their soil must be very airy because they grow on limestone cliffs or other debris. If leaves develop black edges, they have too much water. They need very little fertilizer and no foliar feeding.

A well grown *ma-*

gungensts minima will have only 12 flowers at best. She shaves her plant with scissors several months before the show. *Grandifolia* grows in open light but all others grow in dappled or dense shade. Crinkled leaves usually indicate too much light. Eight hours of light a day is adequate. Lower this for many species.

Confusa grows with many rosettes; try to keep the growths even. *Sigi Falls* is a natural hybrid. *Grandifolia* grows as a single crown. *Grandifolia* 237 and 239 may need to have the humidity of enclosed containers. There is a new species,



Sinningia 'Apricot Bouquet'

Robertson, with medium blue blooms, that grows at an elevation of 6,000 feet. *Intermedia* is a single crown and *ionantha* is a good bloomer.

The new white *ionantha* has a bloom that glistens and would do well to have four blooms at a time. Genola Cox showed us a lovely specimen in bloom.

Tongwensis grows mottled foliage that becomes thicker as it ages.

Shumensis, the tiny one, would be doing well to have 4 or 5 blooms at show time. It suckers profusely.

Brevipilosa grows small at 8 to 10 inches, as do many species. *Diplotrica* appears in several variations like Punter and Parker. They grow as single crowns.

Difficilis has paper thin foliage.

House of Amani is the best variety to grow for showing. It has a very nice growth habit and blooms well.

Velutina has a variation, *amazon*, which is larger and huskier. Fayanne Wagman of Violet Venture of New York, sold leaves of a light blooming variety of this species.

Orbicularis grows much like a tree and has no real form. *Inconspicua* and *pusilla* are extinct.

Safety Net

Many of us are becoming increasingly aware of the harm done by the use of pesticides. None of us wish to endanger ourselves or our environment for the sake of our hobby. So, I have decided to discuss the least toxic methods which can be used on most gesneriads. At times, the most simple solution, such as repotting in fresh soil, can be

the answer. Soil harbors many pests and most gesneriads just love to sink their roots into fresh soil.

I keep hearing all the pros and cons about diatomaceous earth, otherwise known as DE. The quality of DE is important. Please, do rub it between plastics to see if it will scratch the surface. If it does, it's going to pierce the membranes of insects. I have also mixed it with Safer's Insecticidal Soap as a soil drench. This, and any soap product, must be rinsed away fairly soon. DE is only effective if it comes into contact with the insect. Do not wash DE away when you mist or water. DE also leaches from the soil mix if you top water.

Soaps are wonderful products that destroy insects on contact; however, they can also destroy plant tissue. Be very careful not to let the soap harm the tissue. Baby shampoo, used one part to 40 parts water, is a fine, mild soap to wash any plant. It must also be rinsed. As a gardener, I have used Fels Naptha soap as a preventative measure against poison ivy and it is used to wash my hands when I work with my indoor plants.

Rots Wrought

In a previous column, I did not give the proportions of water and baking soda for the spray to be used against mildew. The spray is effective if mixed with several drops of Sunspray horticultural oil. This will act as a spreader-sticker. The correct portion of baking soda is three teaspoons to one quart of water, plus the Sunspray.

Lysol spray is also very effective against mildew, especially if the temperature is raised and

fresh air is admitted to the area. Be careful to keep the spray well above the plants as the propellant will harm plant tissue. A 5% solution of Clorox in water is a great spray if temperatures are favorable. If you touch rotted leaves or flowers, discard them and wash your hands before you touch other plants. Isolate plants that suffer from disease, the same as you would isolate those with insects. The polyspun fabric called row cover, can be very useful to isolate possible infestations. This material can also be used as shade cloth, to protect plants under new fluorescent tubes. New tubes can bleach foliage.

Micro Chips

Microencapsulated pesticides DO work. Used according to the directions on the label, they will remain effective for weeks. DO NOT wash or mist them from the plant. The miniscule nylon cases release the pesticide very slowly. They are extremely safe to use and were developed for use in restaurants, garden centers and offices. PT 1300 Orthene is effective against thrips. Knox-out PT 1500R, is microencapsulated Diazinon. X-clude is encapsulated pyrethrins, a natural pesticide. AVM's advertisers have these products. Please support our advertisers. Read the labels. You will find EPA registration numbers listed somewhere near the ingredient list.

Last, but not least, good old yellow, sticky bars are very effective against all flying insects. The yellow color is a beacon to many pests. They are extremely sticky and work on the same principle as "fly paper" from the good old days.

Come to Colorado — it's alluring

First let's visit historic Georgetown

Colorado, the Rocky Mountains, Rocky Mountain high, cowboys and Indians, miners, the Centennial state — it has been said that the history of Colorado doesn't seem like history. It is so recent that you can touch it, and feel it and, sometimes, even hear it. Names like Georgetown, Silverton, Central City, Silver Plume, Cripple Creek conjure up images of men and women who worked and lived and struggled to settle this magnificent land a little more than 100 years ago.

What *was* this lure, this "thing" that brought people by the thousands to a land that challenged a person merely to survive? First, there were the Anasazi, then the Utes, the Cheyenne, the Arapahoe, and the Kiowa. Then there were the mountain men, the explorers, and then the miners and ranchers, the businessmen, the bankers, the camp followers, and the preachers.

Just above Central City, off the "Oh My God Road," there are stands of pine and aspen trees. If you stop and listen as the wind whispers through the trees, you can hear the echoes of these people. They will tell you ...

While it will not take us long on our tour to reach Georgetown, in 1859, it was isolated — a hard place to get to. Flanked by

a 20-mile canyon below; above, the ridges of the Continental Divide. In fact, there was no good reason to stay in this place, until 1859, when a lone man found his way through the underbrush, and while digging around found — yes, gold and silver.

The valley of Georgetown began filling up — buildings, mills, and people — lots of people. Eventually, 25-30,000 filled the district. From the very beginning, Georgetown was different from those other mining camps. Men came to stay and brought their families. Georgetown became the first "shopping center" for the district. Whatever you hankered for, it was there in Georgetown. Fresh fruits and vegetables had to be brought in by freight car or wagon, because Georgetown was too high to grow anything. But most of all, there was money.

Civic pride came early to Georgetown, and it grew. Georgetown was proud of its climate (they said it was so healthful, they had to hang a man to get the cemetery started); its schools, its churches, its park, even its law-abidingness. But most of all, it was proud of its firemen, those fleet-footed, flashy volunteers. They practiced hard, and then they practiced harder. There was equality and notoriety. The volun-

teers included the town's socially elite and not so socially elite. The Georgetown volunteers took on all comers with inter-city contests that rivaled today's Super Bowl. Much to their credit, Georgetown was never hit with a devastating fire, like Central City, or Silver Plume.

One of the finest hotels in the country, the Hotel de Paris, was owned by an irritable Frenchman who chose those who would be allowed to stay at his hotel. Instant expulsion resulted to anyone who incurred his displeasure. For a miner, earning \$3-4 per day, the prices were steep, but no one objected to paying 75¢ for a porterhouse steak, or 40¢ for a sirloin with onions, 10¢ more. Most of the Frenchman's customers came on the narrow-gauge — people held their breath as they rode on the Devil's Gate Viaduct, later called the Georgetown Loop. You will get to ride on this famous railroad and feel the history, on our tour.

Yes, Georgetown wasn't like other mining towns. Its early miners put down roots deep enough that as you walk the tree-lined streets today, you will see Georgetown much the same as it was in the 1880s.

It will be a day of shopping, history, fun and relaxation as the aspen trees gently call to you.

You've got a friend in Pennsylvania

And the winners are ...

Marie Burns of Baltimore, MD was the top winner at the 1993 AVSA Convention/Show in Lancaster, PA in the amateur division with Best in Show, *Pink Patti*. Marie also won Second Best in Show, *Ocean Eyes*, and Best AVSA Collection of Standards, *Pink Patti, Ocean Eyes* and *Rain Man*. *Pink Patti* also took Best Standard. Best Seedling went to Marie's *Star Sparkler*.

Picasso, grown and shown by **Dianne Good** of Sykeville, MD won Third Best in Show. Dianne also won Second Best AVSA Collection of Standards with *Lela Marie, Picasso* and *Fredette's Moon Flower*.

Best AVSA Collection of Minis or Semiminis went to **Douglas Burdick** of Rochester, NY, with *Rob's Little Butterfly*, *Rob's Silver Spook* and *Rob's Fiddle Faddle*. Douglas also won Second Best Holtkamp Memorial Collection with *Optimara Little Fluorite*, *Optimara Blue Topaz* and *Optimara Little Diamond*. *Rob's Fiddle Faddle* also won Best Semiminiature.

Second Best AVSA Collection of Minis or Semiminis went to **Robert McCabe** of Ottawa, Canada with *Irish Flirt*, *Wee Hummer* and *Royal Rich*. Robert also won Best Miniature with *Timid Teen* and Sweepstakes in Amateur Horticulture (27 blue).

Best Holtkamp Memorial Collection, *Optimara Little Amethyst*, *Optimara Little Moonstone* and *Optimara Little Crystal* was grown and shown by **J. R. Peeler** of Wilmington, NC. J. R. also

won Sweepstakes Runner Up in Amateur Horticulture (22 blue).

Third Best Holtkamp Memorial Collection was grown and shown by **Palma Trapp** of Circle Pines, MN, and included *Optimara Little Amethyst*, *Optimara Little Diamond* and *Optimara Rose Quartz*.

Judith Smith of Laverock, PA won Best Trailer and Best Saintpaulia Species with *S. rupicola*.

Best Other Gesneriad, *Sinningia conspicua*, was grown and shown by **Peggy DePhillippo** of Collegeville, PA.

Marjorie Crosby of Scotch Plains, NJ won Best Maas Memorial Collection with *Ruffled Red*, *Maas' Dorothy* and *Maas' Chris*.

Top winners in the Design Division were: Best in Design and Second Best in Design, **Rhona Thurman** of Burlington, NJ.

Rhona also won Sweepstakes in Design (9 blue and 7 best in class).

Beryl Wood of Cambridge, MD won Sweepstakes Runner Up in Design (9 blue and 2 best in class).

AVSA Publication Award Winners for the 1993 Convention/Show

Publication Awards at the 1993 Lancaster Convention are as follows:

AVS of Lower Bucks County (PA) won Best Affiliate Yearbook with Lee Allen, president.

Paumanok AVS (NY) took second place with Joan Stuckey, president.

Third Best Affiliate Yearbook went to Jefferson AV Association (LA), Gail Borne, president.

Baton Rouge AVS (LA) won Fourth Best Affiliate Yearbook, Mrs. N. J. David, president.

The Best Affiliate Newsletter Awards went to:

The Florida Connection, AV Council of Florida, Carol Schreck, editor;

and Second Best went to Lone Star AV Council Newsletter (TX), Kyle Coleman, editor.

Magazine awards went to:

African Violet Leaves, Illinois AVS, Terry Duchien, president for Best Affiliate Magazine

and The Dixie News, Dixie AVS, Hugh Mackey, president for Second Best Affiliate Magazine.

AVSA Hall of Fame Lists Cordelia Reinhardt

Cordelia Reinhardt was inducted posthumously into the AVSA Hall of Fame in recognition for outstanding service to AVSA. She served as the sixteenth president of AVSA from 1972-1974.

Cordelia joined AVSA in 1950 and helped to organize the Syracuse African Violet Society in 1951. She was instrumental in organizing the New York State AVS and the New York Judges Council, which was the first council established in this organization.

In 1962, Cordelia was elected as an AVSA director and was appointed as chair of the Boyce Edens Research Fund. She held this position until 1969, when she was appointed as the first chair of the Commercial Activi-

ties Committee.

Cordelia was also the first person to serve as third vice president of AVSA when this office was established in 1968. Following her term as president, Cordelia remained active in the society and served as vice chair of the 1982 Syracuse convention. She was a lifetime judge and teacher.

Cordelia and her husband Harold were commercial members of AVSA and worked together in hybridizing.

They made the first successful crosses on Tommie Lou, producing many new variegated varieties.

Norma Reinhardt, Cordelia's daughter, accepted the award on behalf of the Reinhardt family.

Honorary Life Membership

Out-going president A. Charles Bollar was presented the Honorary Life Membership Award at the Lancaster 1993 AVSA convention.

He has been a member of AVSA

for 19 years and served as chair of the 1985 Los Angeles convention.

He has served on the executive committee since 1985 and became president in 1991.

Honorary One-Year Memberships

Honorary One-Year Membership Awards were presented at the 1993 AVSA Convention in Lancaster, PA to Iris Keating of Claremont, CA; Lynn Lombard

of San Dimas, CA;

Thelma Miller of Columbus, OH; Linda Owens of Columbus, OH and Flora Semen of Trenton, NJ.

Tinari Membership Award

The Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award was presented to the African Violet Society of Minnesota, under the leadership of Palma Trapp.

The African Violet Society of Minnesota signed up a total of 41 new members during this year.

Congratulations to all.

Certificates of Appreciation

JANE REXILIUS
AVSA Publications

Each year members of the board of directors and the publications committee are asked to choose five articles which were published in the AVM during the past year which, in their opinion, were the most helpful, interesting and well-written articles.

Each author was presented with a certificate of appreciation at the AVSA convention.

In addition to the certificate, each was given a free AVSA membership to be given by them to a non-AVSA member of their choice.

At the Lancaster convention, certificates were presented to the following authors for the outstanding articles published in the AVM:

Charles E. Sledge, M.D. for "African Violet Chlorosis Related to Excess Soil Alkalinity"

Bev Promersberger for "The Death of the Supermarket Violet"

Val Anderson for "I Do It My Way"

Dr. George McDonald for "African Violets Celebrate 100th Anniversary"

Pat Hancock for "Two Ways to Propagate Chimeras."

SHOW TALK

DARRYL HOOVER
1812 W. Southgate • Fullerton, CA 92633

To ensure each exhibitor and exhibit receives the recognition they deserve, please either print or type your results on the reporting form. Once you've completed the Show Talk report, please double check your spelling. I can check hybrids through the MVL; however, individual names require me to contact the particular affiliates show chair. This may delay the publishing of your show results.

Please include a self-addressed stamped post card with your report. This will allow me to acknowledge receipt of your report and allows me to inquire with the affiliate should the need arise.

RAYNE AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Ness' Viking Maiden, Granger's Wonderland; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Little Katherine, Irish Flirt; Best in Show: Lela Marie; Best Mini: Mickey Mouse, **Leora Peres**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kiss of Fire, Bertha, Makin' Romance; Best Semi: Petite Pat; Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Lucy Menard**. Best Design, **Georgette Jolivet**.

AVC OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Photo Finish, Candy Swirls, Bertha; Best in Show: Photo Finish, **Gene Loveland**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Rain Man, Lela Marie; Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Rob's Puddy Cat, Pat Champagne; Second Best in Show: Picasso; Best Mini: Shan; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Sue J. Hill**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boggymen, Snuggles, Rob's What Not; Best Semi: Boggymen, **Pat Richards**. Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Dennis Stevens**. Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design),

Patty Hart.

TWIN CITIES AVS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Silver Spook, Snuggles; Best in Show/Best Semi: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Second Best in Show: *Saintpaulia diffilis*; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Martha Compton**. Best Design, Sweepstakes (Design), Ruth Tiedeman Memorial Award, **Val Anderson**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Gasteranthus atratus*, **Libby Watkins**.

FIRST LAKE LAND AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Emiko, Tiger, Rain Man; Best in Show: Emiko; Best Trailer: Pioneer Trail, **Lea Plaire**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: This Bud's Mine, Frosted Whisper, Tina; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Chris Howel**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sweet Pea, Wee Blue Eyes, Town Flirt; Best Mini: Lullaby; Best Semi: Ness' Sweet Pea, **Christel Collier**. Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Diamond, Optimara Little Crystal, **Dora DiLorenzo**. Best Design, **Evelyn Hutto**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Claudette Brown**.

VALLEY AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Milky Way Trail, Sundown Trail, Snowy Trail; Best Semi: Definitely Darryl; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Edith Baca**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Dancin' Trail, **Web Kincaid**.

UPPER PINELLAS AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Luv Texas, Fisherman's Paradise, Georgia Lover; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Lavender Kisses, Snuggles; Best in Show: Wrangler's Luv Texas; Best Mini: Petite Jewel; Best Semi: Bright Honey; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best De-

sign; Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Phyllis King**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Phantom Flash, Wrangler's Bryan's Song, Midnight Magic, **Peggy Waller**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula kitzarae*, **Dorothea Gill**.

CENTRAL FLORIDA AVS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Painted Sunrise, Christine, This Bud's Mine; Best Design, **Peggy Noles**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Peach Jubilee, King's Treasure, Wrangler's Lady Vallin, **Mary Jubey**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Copper Cat, Rob's Macho Devil, Snuggles Little Girl; Best in Show/Best Semi: Ness' Mini Sota; Best Trailer: Lamb's Ears; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Lauretta McElwain**. Best Mini: Mickey Mouse, **Claire Stanton**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Dorothy Parchment**.

AVS OF GREATER TULSA, OK - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Desert Dawn, Lela Marie, Bertha; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Snuggles Snow Baby, Rob's Bedazzled; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Linda Bjorkman**. Second Best AVSA Collection: Sonja, L'amour Du Jour, Fantasy Splendor; Second Best Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Pearl, Petite Jewel, Rob's Soliloquy; Best Mini: Petite Jewel, **Dorothy Harris**. Best in Show/Best Semi: Sugar Doll, **Juanita Carpenter**. Best Trailer: Magic Trail, **Edna McCawley**. Best Design, **Cindy Gilbert**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Rita Linkswiler**.

MAGIC KNIGHT AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Molokai, Optimara Harlequin, Apache Campfire; Best in Show: Pink Obsession; Best Trailer: Santa Fe Trail, **Jeanne Carvajal**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: My Wicked

Ways, Party Print, Cajun Heritage, **Janey Reddell**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Mini Papa, Ness' Sno Fun, Hector; Best Mini: Petite Tot, **Ken Froboese**. Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Magic Blue, Mini Papa; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Hortense Pittman**. Best Semi: Bogeyman, **Bill Johnson**. Best Design, **Alma Hummer**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Dea Johnson**.

SPRING BRANCH AVC, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Diamond, Apache Jewel, Apache Target, **J. C. Munk**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Big Charlie, Ma Gigl, Apache Feathers; Best in Show: Apache Gem; Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Lenora Munk**. Best Mini: Ness' Angle Blush, **Trish Wright**. Best Semi: Precious Pink; Sweepstakes (Design), **Jane Rexilius**. Best Design, **Judith Carter**.

SAN MATEO AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vrego, Coral Glo, Canadian Sunset, **Irene Boro**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Arapahoe, Katy; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Celine Chase**. Best in Show/Best Semi: Definitely Darryl, **Jessica Boro**. Best Mini: Little Cameo, **Joanna Behl**. Best Design, **Heather Morgan**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Thelma Walther**.

POMONA VALLEY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Amanda Ruth, Nortex's Snowfrill Haven, Ness' Shady Lady, **Juanita Perkins**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Moonstone, Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Amethyst; Best in Show/Best Semi: Pat Champagne; Best Mini: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Faye Shirley**. Best Trailer: Wood Trail, **Marna Music**. Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Hilda Douglas**. Best Gesneriad: *Nautilocalyx gladulifer*, **Iris Keating**.

CEN-TEX RAINBOW AVC, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pink Elegance, Magnolia,

Phantom Flash, **Sheri DeLoach**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Hello There, Fisherman's Paradise, Picotee Petticoat; Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Maxine Garlick**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Blue Moon, Rob's Pinky Winky, Irish Flirt, **Joy Dale Smith**. Best in Show: Wrangler's Pink Patches; Best Mini: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Semi: Pride of Columbus, **Joanne Rogers**. Best Trailer: Christine's Trail, **Jim James**. Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Effel Randall-Harper**.

AVS OF PENSACOLA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Autumn Honey, Wrangler's Boot Stompin', Pensi Orchid, **George Starr**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Picasso, Georgia Lover; Best in Show: Georgia Lover; Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, **Linda Lube**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sticky Wicket, Ramblin' Silver, Dancin' Trail; Best Design, **Jean Jones**. Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Nes' Tutti Frutti, Rob's Shadow Magic; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Jan Kurtz**. Best Mini: Timid Teen; Best Semi: Sassy Shirley, **Louise Merritt**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Charline Sims**.

SAN DIEGO DAYTIME AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ice Dancing, Phantom Flash, Big Daddy; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Wee Be, Rob's Copper Cat; Best Mini: Rob's Romancer; Best Trailer: Snowy Trail; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Carole Scelsi**. Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*, **Anne Stewart**. Best Semi: Petite Pat, **Audrey Hanthorn**. Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Marie Blanks**.

TAMPA AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frosted Whisper, Granger's Wonderland, Mary Craig; Best in Show: Frosted Whisper, **Walt Spangler**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Magnolia, Strawberry Festival, Judy Partain, **Cheryl Hukle**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dancin' Trail,

Snowy Trail, Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Trailer: Dancin' Trail; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Joanne Martinez**. Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lil Lady, Irish Flirt, Rob's Whimsical; Best Mini: Petite Jewel, **Glenn Shelton**. Best Semi: Irish Flirt; Best Design, **Mary Lou Harden**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Sue Hendley**.

BERGEN COUNTY AVS, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Highland Fling, Ballet Marta, Ms. Pretty Pink, **Henrikas Januskevicius**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mystery, Kiwi Dazzle, Daybreak Blue; Best in Show/Best Semi: Pat Champagne; Best Mini: Merrilee; Best Design; Sweepstakes, **Frank Senna**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Beginner's Luck, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Wee Be, **Florence DiLiberti**.

SAN JOAQUIN AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Phantom Flash, Picasso, Granger's Wonderland; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Rhodonite, Optimara Little Pearl, Timid Teen; Best in Show: Picasso; Best Semi: Irish Flirt; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Doris Weaver**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: The King, Dyn-O-Mite, Wine Country, **Gladys Cartwright**. Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Tutti Frutti, Ness' Sno Fun, Topmost; Best Mini: Lucky Lass; Best Design, **Vera Parker**. Best Trailer: Candy Girl, **Mary Lloyd**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Susan Bastianelli**.

FORT WORTH AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Optimara Manitoba, Ayako; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Sugar Bear Blues, Optimara Little Blackfoot; Best in Show: Lela Marie; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Virginia Linson**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Cotton Bowl, Red Ferrari; Best Semi: Little Pro, **Myrtle Chilcutt**. Best Mini: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Design, **Crotev Johnson**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Mrs. R. D. Early**.

See **SHOW TALK**, page 34

Dr. Jeff Smith presented AVSA Bronze Medal for scientific achievement

Dr. Jeff Smith of Muncie, Indiana was awarded the AVSA Bronze Medal for Scientific Achievement at the Lancaster 1993 AVSA convention.

During the last four years, Dr. Smith has received grants from the AVSA Boyce Edens Research Fund, resulting in the publication of over 12 articles in the *African Violet Magazine*.

His research projects included the documentation of the flower pigmentation of the yellow African violet, introduced in 1989.

His column on hybridizing, in the *AVM*, "In Search of New Violets," reflects his continued research on the genetic inheritance of flower colors.

His goal is to share this information with hybridizers so that they can selectively work toward a true "rainbow" of flower colors in African violets.

Smith also hybridizes and is beginning to release some of his hybrids.

Dr. Smith is currently a life science instructor at the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities.

His students often use African violets in their science fairs and research projects.

AVSA is pleased to present the Bronze Medal for Scientific Achievement to Dr. Jeff Smith for his outstanding contributions.

Betty Tapping of Canada receives Hudson Award

In recognition for outstanding service to national, international and local affiliates, the Hudson Memorial Award goes to Betty Tapping.

Betty is an AVSA life member, senior judge, teacher and has served as a director on the board. She serves on the shows and judges committee and the library committee for which she distributes library programs to our Canadian members.

Her many achievements and

contributions as an affiliate leader include the following: past president, Toronto AVS and Lakeshore AVS; served on executive board, Toronto Gesneriad Society; director, New York State AVS; charter member - Mid-Atlantic AVS; second vice president and contributor to *Chatter Magazine*, AVS of Canada; awards chairman and master judge and teacher, American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society.

**Thanks, Tri-State Council
for a great convention!**

Attention: Affiliates Nominees Wanted for Hudson Award

Each year the Mabel and Glenn Hudson Memorial Award is given to individuals for outstanding leadership activities within an affiliated chapter.

Recipients are presented with a citation and an award at the closing banquet of the annual convention.

Affiliate groups are encouraged to suggest names of potential candidates for this award.

To do so, secretaries of affiliates should send the name of the individual, along with a detailed list of leadership activities and accomplishments, to:

Esther Edwards Wells
AVSA Awards
Committee Chair
948 Fair Oaks Court
Liberty, MO 64068.

Complete information should be submitted no later than November 1, 1993, to be considered for the award to be presented at the 1994 convention in Denver.

In order for the Awards Committee to give your recommendations full consideration, please share as much information as possible, including details.

Hurry! Send your awards now for the Denver convention/show

Be a part of the Colorado Violet Festival by donating an award for the 1994 convention show.

Awards are needed for all parts of the show — horticulture and design, amateur and commercial.

The outstanding accomplishments of the many exhibitors at the Denver convention show will be recognized by awards given by members and affiliates.

All awards for the 1994 AVSA convention in Denver should be sent to:

Esther Edwards Wells
AVSA Awards Chair
948 Fair Oaks Court
Liberty, MO 64068
(home 816-781-2160)
(work 816-781-1821)

The deadline for submitting awards is September 15, 1993, in order for the awards to be listed in the January issue of the *African Violet Magazine* with all of the other details about the Denver convention.

Awards will still be accepted until January 1, 1994.

Please make every effort to send your awards early.

Cash awards must be paid in US funds by check or money order **payable to AVSA Convention.**

Appropriate items other than cash will be accepted. However, please do not send gift certificates.

When sending an award, please include the following

information:

Donor or Name of Award
Address of Contact Person
Amount of award or other appropriate item

Request for specific class or section, if available (amateur horticulture, commercial horticulture, design, etc.)

Cash awards which cannot be given because there are no qualified entries (i.e., no entry for specific variety awards) are given to AVSA.

Undesignated awards assigned to a class which subsequently has no entries are reassigned as needed.

Awards for the best plant of a specific hybridizer or series, or awards which would complicate judging, will not be accepted.

All awards must be sent to the awards chair.

Get an early start on your plans for the 1994 convention by sending your award now.

Continuing Service Award

In recognition for service to AVSA, the Continuing Service Award was presented to Jim and DoDe Whitaker of Merritt Island, FL, at the Lancaster 1993

AVSA Convention.

DoDe has been AVSA Convention Director since 1986 and Jim has been the chair of the Open Forum since 1988.

Future AVSA Convention Sites and Dates

Denver, Colorado
May 23 - 28, 1994

St. Louis, Missouri
May 22 - 27, 1995

Atlanta, Georgia
May 23 - 27, 1996



GEORGE RAMIREZ won Best of Show, Best Edged Blossom, Best Variegated Standard and Best Jeanette Jesneriad's Plant with *Pure Sin*, at a recent show of the Atchafalaya (LA) VS.

REGISTRATION REPORT



IRIS KEATING
149 LORETTO COURT
CLAREMONT, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

REGISTRATIONS

Edwin H. Adams - Chesaning, MI

***BUD AND WALTER** (7851) 2/26/93 (E. H. Adams)
Single-semidouble pale pink stickite star/
darker rays. Medium green, ovate, spooned,
quilted, wavy, serrated. **Large**

Elizabeth Wasche - Brigantine, NJ

***GLORIOUS PRESENT** (7852) 3/6/93 (E. Wasche)
Semidouble-double rose/darker shading, thin
white edge. Variegated dark green, pink and
tan, plain, glossy, scalloped/red back. **Large**

***PERFECT TOGETHER** (7853) 3/6/93 (E.
Wasche) Double white/thin dark blue ruffled
edge. Medium green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

***PRIVILEGED CLASS** (7854) 3/6/93 (E. Wasche)
Double bright pink frilled. Medium green,
quilted, wavy. **Standard**

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

***CHARTREUSE WONDER** (7855) 3/19/93 (D.
Harrington) Semidouble white pansy/pink eye,
green ruffled edge. Light green, wavy. **Standard**

***GOIN' DANCING** (7856) 3/19/93 (D. Harrington)
Double white and pink ruffled/darker edge.
Light green, heart-shaped, quilted, ruffled.
Standard

***HUMUNGOUS** (7857) 3/19/93 (D. Harrington)
Double pink large frilled star. Dark green, heart-
shaped, wavy. **Standard**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Edwin H. Adams - Chesaning, MI

* Ed's Double Mist * Ed's Moonlighter * Ed's Pastel
Bouquet * Ed's Pure Pleasure * Ed's Sky Tints *
Lilac Hope * Marble Face * Michigan Orchid * Pink
Adventure * Purple Rhapsody * Raspberry Flirt *
Rose Fluff * Stars a Bloomin'

Master Variety List #6

— \$12.95 postpaid —

*Describes all varieties
and non-registered cultivars
introduced from July 1983
to December 1992.*

*MVL is looseleaf and fits
in MVL Binder available
from AVSA Office
or in an 8-1/2 x 11
regular binder.*



PICASSO

a Michel Tremblay of Quebec, Canada hybrid
grown and shown by
Marge Cunningham of Portsmouth, Rhode Island

Best In Class
AVSA Columbus (OH) Convention 1992

SHOW TALK, *continued from page 29*

SOUTH COAST AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Creole Royale, Picasso, Kathe Denise; Best in Show: Creole Royale, **Jim Turner**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Evangeline, Perhaps Love, Pride of Enterprise; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Marilee Beam**. Best Mini: Party Doll, **Jacque Eisenhut**. Best Semi: Precious Pink, **Barbara Cruise**. Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Hans Inpijn**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Everdina Inpijn**. Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Toni Beven**.

COVINGTON AVS, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Arizona, Chiffon Print, Moonfire; Best in Show: Optimara Arizona; Best Trailer: Fancy Trail, **Clara Mac Gantt**. Best Semi: Precious Pink, **Grace Brogden**. Best Gesneriad: Episcia 'Pink Brocade', **Ornette Lansford**. Best Design, **Uldeine Starnes**. Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Myra Benton**.

AVS OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Bangle Blue, Happy Cricket, Elizabeth; Best in Show: Happy Cricket; Best Trailer: Pixie Trail; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Mildred Patrick**. Best Semi: Bogeyman, **Ricki Oscarson**. Best Design, **Dawn Perry**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Ginger Kollman**.

TOP CHOICE AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Snowfields, Mary Craig, Nancy Reagan, **Chris Franklin**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Painted Sunrise, The King, Wrangler's Pink Patches; Best Trailer: Champagne Pink; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Vivian Kennedy**. Best in Show: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration; Best Semi: Hand Made, **Dorothy Ricketson**. Best Design, **Mary Ann Locknar**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Ruby Parker**.

BATON ROUGE AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Lion, Evangeline, Party Print; Best in Show: Party Print, **Denise Lindsley**. Second Best AVSA

Standard Collection: First Hous-ton, Blanche Holt, Magnolia, **Josie Ragusa**. Best Mini: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisaku'; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Sallie L. Barlow**. Best Semi: Precious Pink, **Nellois Gremillion**. Best Trailer: Beacon Trail, **Fran Spear**. Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Nancy David**.

MOONLIGHT AVS, TX - Winners: Best in Show/Best Trailer: Lil Run Around; Best Design; Best Mini: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Semi: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, **Tracy Strackbein**. Second Best in Show: Snow Rose, **Mural Fort**. Best Gesneriad: Columnnea 'Early Bird', **Velma Lewis**. Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Hazel Wallace**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Bonnie Harris**.

BLUFF CITY AVC, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: L'Ambassadeur, Lela Marie, Cajun Heritage; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Iona Pair**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Gaudy Lady, Wrangler's Petticoat Chaser, Ness' Misty Blue, **Mike Ramsey**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Almost Sinful, Irish Flirt, Streisand; Best in Show/Best Semi: Alan's Showy Snowy; Best Mini: Rob's Little Shmoozie; Best Trailer: Falling Snow; Best Species: *Saintpaulia shumensis*; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **George McDonald**. Best Standard: Kermit, **Helen Stauffer**.

THE DELAWARE AVS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nortex's Radiant Haven, Old Dominion Glory, Desir; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hortense Pittman, Petite Jewel, Rob's Sandstorm; Best in Show: Desir; Best Mini: Hortense Pittman; Best Semi: Precious Pink; Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #7; Best Design: Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Bessie Pyle**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Moonbeams, Wrangler's Pink Patches, Grape Slush, **Libby**

Behnke. Sweepstakes (Design), **Betty Gregg/Angie Celano (Tie)**. Best Design, **Beryl Wood**.

ATCHAFALAYA VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Big Daddy, Devil-May-Care, Janice Ann; Best in Show: Pure Sin; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Y. George Ramirez, Jr.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Romancer, Ness' Angel Blush, Wichita Baby; Best Mini: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Semi: Kid Karla; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Martha Dyson**. Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Katherine, Ness' Sweet Pea, Rob's Gal Vikki, **Alice Ramirez**. Best Design, **Yvonne Ozio**.

HERITAGE AVS OF LONG ISLAND, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Washington, Galactic Star, Victorian Velvet, **Barbara Kustek**. Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lyon's Country Moonlight, Tomahawk, Granger's Wonderland; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Snuggles, Precious Pink; Best in Show: Lyon's Country Moonlight; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Lillian Banchik**. Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Autumn Lou, Snuggles, Ness' Sno Fun, **Dot Owen**. Best Mini: Ballet Blue Ice; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299, **Pam Caro**. Best Semi: Precious Pink, **Bob Kustek**. Best Design, **Barbara Collette**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Evelyn Hannon**.

Note: The wrong results were sent in for the Ohio State AVS show. The corrected information is:

OHIO STATE AVS - Winners: Best in Show: Granger's Desert Dawn; Second Best AVSA Standard Collection: Private Stock, Granger's Desert Dawn, Dallas Doozie; Third Best in Show: Phantom Flash, **Doris Palm**.

**Affiliates: Please Note
New Address
for "Show Talk"**
DARRYL HOOVER
1812 W. Southgate
Fullerton, CA 92633

Ordering Leaves

SHARON E. JOHNSON
6657 E. Shadow Lake Drive
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

Every year I order leaves through the mail and I would like to share some of my ideas with you.

When I get the January/February issue of the *African Violet Magazine*, I write to several advertisers for their catalogs.

It can take up to four months before all the lists are sent to me.

I then have to choose *who* to order from, and *what* to order.

Most of the time I order through two different places, because not one place carries everything that I want.

Most importantly, ORDER WHAT YOU LIKE TO GROW!

By growing particular plants that you like, you will fuss over them more and your results will be nicer plants.

Order a variety of leaf shapes, and flower colors.

One year I ordered all whites, and could only exhibit in one class at our show.

If you are a "new grower," try something you have not grown before.

When selecting your future plants, READ THE DESCRIPTIONS VERY CAREFULLY. I like the phrase "good show plant" or something similar to that after the plant descriptions.

I do not like a description that is "variable, but when it comes in true, it is beautiful."

You may find such a plant a challenge, and want to grow it.

Registered plants are usually outstanding plants.

DON'T LIMIT YOURSELF TO ONE HYBRIDIZER. By trying different hybridizers, you may come across a hybridizer whose plants you can grow exceptionally well.

REVIEW YOUR SELECTION CAREFULLY, including substitutes. Unless you place your order very early, expect some subs.

I get the faster delivery service, rationalizing that Minnesota weather is so variable.

In reality, I can hardly wait until they are delivered!

If you are fortunate enough to

attend a convention, write up a "wish list" of plants that you would like to grow.

If the plants are not available at the convention, you could order them through the mail.

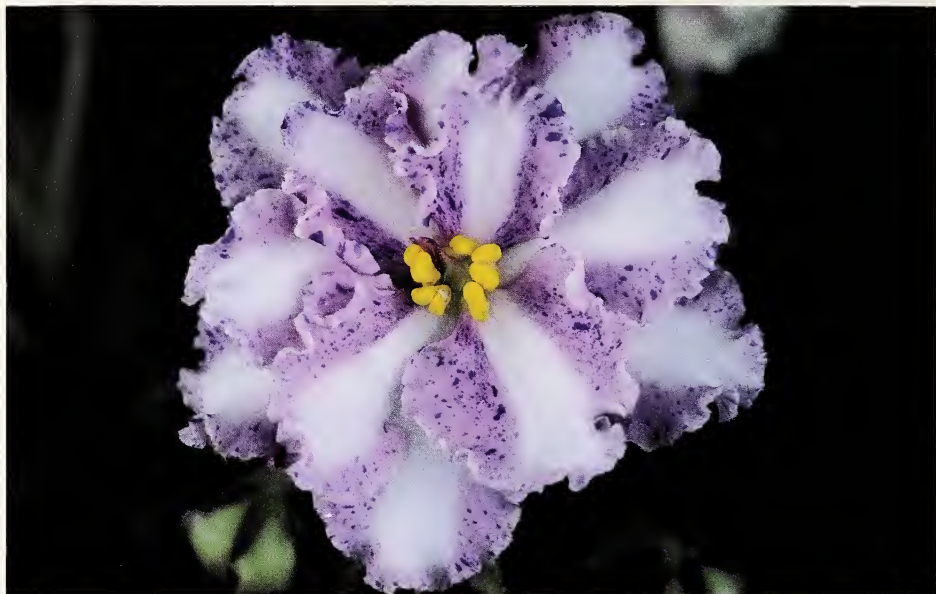
I really enjoy ordering leaves, growing the plants and bringing them into the show, and occasionally they have become Best in Show.

It keeps my enthusiasm at a very high level, because I am always looking for an outstanding plant, and all the new varieties make our shows pretty and current.



THE GOLD ROSETTE COLLECTION, *Picasso, Kathy Denise and Creole Royale*, at a recent South Coast (CA) AVS show.

**Give a gift membership
to AVSA
for any occasion!**



Victorian Flirt

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Dolgeville, New York

Golden Threads





Fredette's Designer Silk

Irene Fredette, Hamden, Connecticut

Fredette's Glitter Fountain



Commercial exhibits

AVSA 1993 National Convention

RUTH GOECKE

Each year, one of the highlights at the AVSA national convention is the commercial display section.

This year was no exception.

Rob's Mini-o-lets

Naples, New York

Ralph Robinson of **Rob's Mini-o-lets** of Naples, New York had his usual outstanding display of 45 beautiful miniatures and semiminatures and received the Best Display Table award.

The focus of attention on this table was 'Rob's Dipsy Doodle' which is a new variety from Ralph and was chosen as the Third Best New Cultivar.

It is a lovely plant featuring light pink fantasy bell shaped blooms.

A number of his other new varieties were exhibited and sparked a lot of special interest.

They all were very symmetrical and you could hardly see the foliage for the large blossoms!

Included were 'Rob's Heat-wave' which has pink doubles edged in rose over dark foliage and 'Rob's Red Rooster' with its dark red semidouble stars on dark foliage.

Other new varieties displayed included 'Rob's Whodunit,' 'Rob's Lucky Stroke,' and 'Rob's Mad Cat.'

These exquisite plants were on everyone's want list!

Kent's Flowers

Fremont, Nebraska

Kent Stork of **Kent's Flowers**,

Fremont, Nebraska won the Second Best Display Table with his notable display of 15 large standard varieties.

Best New Cultivar honors went to 'International,' which was hybridized by the late Bill Johnson, and grown and shown superbly by Kent.

'International' is a beautiful rose pink pansy blossom edged in dark red with dark green foliage.

'Jealous Halo,' hybridized by the late Gordon Boone, is a spectacular plant with lovely large pink doubles with green frilled edges and foliage that is very heavily variegated in several shades of green and white.

'Welcome Home' is Kent's new hybrid and featured a huge head of dusty pink semidoubles in large clusters that formed a perfect crown of blossoms over dark green large foliage.

Several other new varieties you won't want to miss are 'Bubblegum Halo' and 'Mindi Rose.'

'Ruffled Skies' received the pink rosette as the best plant on their table.

Midland Violets

White Bear Lake, Minnesota

Jean Ness of **Midland Violets** from White Bear Lake, Minnesota, had a delightful display table made up of six standards, and groupings of 27 semiminature and miniature varieties.

Her lovely table received Third Best Display Table honors. 'Ness' Lil Hotshot' was espe-

cially striking and received the pink rosette for the best plant on her table.

This new 1993 semiminature features dusty fuchsia semidouble pansies with white tips and edges over Tommie Lou variegated foliage.

Another outstanding plant on her table was 'Ness' Viking Frost,' which is a standard variety with white semidoubles that formed a halo over the medium green foliage.

Other new semiminature plants featured on her table were 'Ness' Grape Fizz' with grape geneva doubles and 'Ness' Sheer Peach' with peachy pink doubles.

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

Dolgeville, New York

Sidney Sorano of **Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses**, Dolgeville, New York had a splendid display of 15 large standard varieties and received Honorable Mention with Fourth Best Display Table.

Her table featured quite a number of her new hybrids you won't want to miss.

One of the new varieties, 'Vintage Wine,' was selected as the Second Best New Cultivar, and received the pink rosette as the best plant on their table, in addition to receiving the award as being the best overall plant on any display table.

This gorgeous plant has striking blooms of deep red wine semidoubles over gorgeous flat

very dark green foliage variegated with mauve pink.

Sidney's table also featured several plants in shades of yellow.

'Playful Dreamer' has soft pink semidouble pansy shaped flowers that are shaded and blushed with ivory and mottled with pastel yellow shades over dark foliage.

Another new yellow variety is 'Golden Threads.'

'Blushing Ivory' has beautiful single fluted stars with a pinkish orchid band around the edge of the bloom and an ivory center.

Other new "must have" varieties include 'Jazzy Jewel,' 'Easter Candy,' 'Victorian Fantasy,' 'Cinnamon Ruffles,' and 'Victorian Parasol.'

Tinari Greenhouses Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania

It was so nice to have Anne and Frank Tinari of **Tinari Greenhouses**, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania have a display table again after a number of years.

They displayed 15 lovely standard hybrids. 'Blue Earth' received the pink rosette as the best plant on their table.

This plant has a pretty bluish purple semidouble bloom with heart shaped green foliage.

Their new hybrid, 'Plum De Creme,' is a rich double plum purple with a geneva edge.

There's no doubt you will be seeing this plant in future shows.

Other lovely plants on their table were 'White Cameo,' 'Nortex's Razmataz Haven,' and 'Pink Cameo.'

In the Specimen Class Divi-

sion, Hortense Pittman received the gold rosette for her AVSA collection of 'Sassy Shirley,' 'Wee Be,' and 'Precious Pink.'

Hortense also won the Second Best Holtkamp Memorial Collection with her exhibit of 'Optimara Little Rose Quartz,' 'Optimara Little Apatite,' and 'Optimara Little Moonstone.'

'Teen Surprise,' a lovely variegated semiminature with rose pink two tone doubles, was hybridized by Hortense and received the honors of the Best New Cultivar and the best plant

in the commercial specimen classes.

The purple rosette for the Second Best AVSA Collection went to John and Doris Brownlie of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, for their collection of 'Rob's Gal Vikki,' 'Irish Flirt,' and 'Lilith.'

Jo Wells of Tonawanda, New York received the Best Holtkamp Memorial Collection award with her collection of 'Optimara Little Kunzite,' 'Optimara Little Amethyst,' and 'Optimara Little Rose Quartz.'



BARBARA CRUISE won Best Semi with *Precious Pink*, at a recent South Coast (CA) AVS show.



BEST MINIATURE, *Party Doll*, was won by Jacquie Eisenhut at a recent South Coast (CA) AVS show.

An Open Letter to AVSA Affiliates:

At the recent convention, it was very disappointing for me that small rosettes were not awarded for best-in-class exhibits. Instead, a small flat ribbon was given along with a small cash award. This was nice.

Some people probably prefer cash, but only the top winners are truly compensated to any extent for their expenses from winnings. Personally, I prefer a small rosette. One that is different from any ever earned before at a local, state, or regional. Our AVSA national conventions are something some folks attend only a couple of times in their life. For others, a national best-in-class may be the highest award they ever win.

Couldn't one of our regionals or large state affiliates pick up the annual tab for all best-in-class rosettes and be acknowledged accordingly? I sure hope so and I know I am not alone.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Stenger, 714 El Toro Lane, Houston, Texas 77062.



Curlie Werlie

Dolores Harrington, Fridley, Minnesota

Chartreuse Wonder



Those Fascinating Fantasies

DR. JEFF SMITH
Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306

I have kept one or more plant stands in my office for several years.

Without fail, the plants that get the most attention from visitors are those with Fantasy style blooms. People seem unable to believe that African violets can have blooms with polka-dots.

Indeed, for many hobbyists, the Fantasies hold a special type of magic. What do we know about these fascinating Fantasies?

The Fantasy trait is one of the oldest mutations recorded in African violets.

The first Fantasy plant was reported in 1949 (Johnson, 1990) on a cultivar named 'Fantasy,' giving this bloom style its name.

Over the years, several different types of Fantasies have been developed. Some of the types are: Dot Fantasy, Puff Fantasy, Self-Fantasy, and Reverse Fantasy.

DOT FANTASY

The Dot Fantasy type is the one most familiar to African violet growers. The flowers are typically pink with irregularly placed dots or dashes of blue or purple. The number of dots per flower can vary considerably from only a few to many.

The size of the dots is fairly consistent, but can range from 1/8 inch diameter to a pinpoint of only a few colored cells.

In some cultivars, the dots

are elongated and form dashes or streaks. Examples of the Dot Fantasy type would include 'PartyPrint,' 'Ramblin' Dots' and just about any cultivar with the name 'Fantasy_____.'

The Dot Fantasy type can also be expressed as blue dots on a red background or the dots can be lavender in color.

Most recently, Dot Fantasy patterns in the Coral shades have become available.

PUFF FANTASY

The Puff Fantasy type consists of irregularly placed spots of a pale color on a darker background.

The puffs are typically several times larger than the spots of the Dot Fantasy and usually lack sharp boundaries between the puffs and the background.

The margins of each puff gradually deepen to the background color producing an effect similar to tie-dyed clothing.

In contrast, the margins of the spots in the Dot Fantasy pattern are very sharp, giving distinct edges to each spot.

The number of puffs per bloom is variable, but the background color often dominates the overall color of the flower.

A chemist friend of mine has remarked that the Puff Fantasies reminded her of litmus paper that has been sprinkled with drops of acid. The acid creates spots of intense color, but the margins are only partially reacted, resulting in

blurred halos or borders around each puff.

The Puff Fantasy type is sometimes known as "Galaxy" Fantasy from an early cultivar by that name.

Examples of the Puff Fantasy include 'Intergalactic,' and 'Galactic Splash.'

Puff Fantasies can come in a range of colors including the unusual magenta/plum colors of 'Phobos' and 'Kimono' and the striking Coral colors seen in 'Jean-Pierre Croteau.'

SELF-FANTASY

Self-Fantasies have two shades of one color streaked or dashed within the flower.

The margins of the spots may or may not be distinct and sharp.

These plants are often heavily streaked and it becomes difficult to say if the flowers have a dark background with light streaks or a light background with dark streaks.

The cultivar 'Sea Queen' is a light pink/dark pink older cultivar example of Self-Fantasy.

'Ness' Ballyhoo Blue' is a more recent cultivar with dark blue/light blue flowers.

I have seen red examples of this Fantasy type among my seedlings, but generally this Fantasy type seems less common than the previous two.

Coral shades with Self-Fantasy should be possible, but I have not yet seen an example of one.

The last Fantasy style is what

I refer to as Reverse Fantasy.

REVERSE FANTASY

This type has white spots on a colored background.

Spot size is irregular and often the spots are more short streaks than they are dots.

This Fantasy type strongly resembles the Dot Fantasy pattern, except that the colors are reversed, hence the name Reverse Fantasy.

The cultivars 'Black Jack,' 'Sparky' and 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot' are examples, having white spots on a dark blue background.

This Fantasy style is rare and there appears to be only a few cultivars with this pattern.

I am not aware of any other background colors in Reverse Fantasy besides blue.

One of the most frustrating things about all the Fantasies is their lack of stability.

In some plants, one bloom may revert to solid color, while all the rest are Fantasy.

Within one flower, sections of the petals may revert to solid

color.

Sometimes, one whole side of a bloom becomes solid, giving the flower the appearance of having been split down the middle.

In other cases, the flowers formed on one half of the plant become solid while the other half is Fantasy.

The instability of the Fantasy plants appears to be a characteristic of the mutation, having been described as an "ever sporting strain" by Dr. Sheldon Reed (1954).

Breeders have been constantly striving to stabilize the Fantasy trait, but have had little success.

The instability of the Fantasy trait is also seen in leaf cuttings.

Many is the hobbyist who obtained a leaf for a Fantasy plant from a supply house, only to have the babies show solid colors, not the Fantasy.

This is not the fault of the supplier; it's just another expression of the unstableness of the Fantasy mutation.

Typically, the solid color is the darkest color shown in the original Fantasy flower. This may suggest that the Fantasy mutation is due to a failure to convert the lighter color to a darker pigment, resulting in areas of light pigmentation.

When the mutation stabilizes or back-mutates, the dark color production is completed and the result is a solid bloom in the darker color.

If you are concerned about getting a plant with Fantasy blooms, try purchasing a plant that is already in flower. In this way, you can see if the plant shows the Fantasy pattern or if

it has mutated to only solid colors.

Genetically, all Fantasy types can usually be handled as a dominant genetic trait.

If a Fantasy is crossed with a solid flower, about 50% of the offspring on average will be Fantasy and 50% will be solids.

The darkest color seen in either parent will usually be dominant and many of the offspring will have that color in their Fantasy pattern or as their solid color.

In some instances, however, a cross with a Fantasy will give no Fantasy offspring (Johnson, 1988).

The reason for this is uncertain, but the occurrence seems to be rare and can usually be ignored in planning crosses with Fantasies.

Most plants carry only one dose (or allele) for the Fantasy trait.

Plants with two doses (homozygous dominant) are possible, but seem to be infrequent. If these plants are used in a cross, all of the offspring should be Fantasy. However, given the instability of the trait, some solid offspring would still likely be produced.

There does not appear to be a good method to detect if a plant carries one or two doses of the Fantasy trait.

In some instances, the plants with double doses are reported to have relatively more, but smaller spots compared to plants with a single dose.

This difference in spot number and size may be a guideline in some instances, but only test crosses with a solid plant will reveal if a plant has one dose (giving 50% Fantasy offspring)



BEST IN SHOW, *Creole Royale*,
was won by Jim Turner at a recent
South Coast (CA) AVS show.

or two doses (giving nearly 100% Fantasy offspring) for the Fantasy trait.

Fantasy genes have been combined with other flower characteristics resulting in a range of flower types.

Fantasies can be found on violet and star shaped flowers and on all petal number combinations from single to semi-doubles to full doubles.

Fantasies can be found on miniatures, standards and even trailer plants.

Fantasy can be combined with Geneva edges or edged blooms. In the latter, the center of the flower is white and the petals are edged in a narrow band of Fantasy.

These Fantasy/edged flowers are quite attractive, especially when combined with ruffled or frilled petal edges.

Chimeras with stripes of Fantasy have been found.

Fantasy blooms can also be placed on solid or variegated foliage, including Lilian Jarrett variegation (new seedling in my crosses this year).

In short, Fantasy blooms can and have been bred into a full range of plant and flower types.

Given what has already been developed with Fantasy, is there room for anything new?

The answer is a definite — yes.

Fantasies in the Coral colors have only recently been developed.

There is much potential for improvement and variety available here.

The Self- and Reverse Fantasy types are uncommon and more could be done to combine these types with Coral colors, Geneva edges, variegated leaves,

etc.

Some of the Yellows may be a type of Fantasy and this combination could be worked on and improved.

Can you visualize a Yellow and Coral Red Fantasy?

How about a Fantasy in Green or a tri-color Fantasy?

These may be just a few of the possibilities that await us in the near future.

Fantasies have been both fascinating and frustrating to African violet growers and hybridizers for many years. Their

sparkling combinations of multiple colors dazzle the eye and delight our imagination.

These plants are truly a "Fantasy" for us to grow and enjoy.

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FORMing A Show Day Checklist

JOYCE STENGER
714 El Toro Lane
Houston, Texas 77062

Judging of your show is completed! Months of focused effort and hard work are rewarded with ... NO ROSETTE!!

How could this happen??

Sometimes affiliates lose their chance for an AVSA Show Award, due to the rush and confusion in the last hours before judging.

A show day checklist would seem appropriate and could be revised as experience provides additional considerations.

A checklist would provide a means to thoroughly review any loose ends, by one or more designated club members the day before the show, and again, right before judging.

Usually, the show chair and

co-show chair, are the last ones to inspect a show before judging.

There is an AVSA Standard Show Award (SSA) Point-Score Sheet in the *Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*.

All members of a club putting on a show should know how shows are point scored.

Members should be familiar with the complete section on an AVSA Standard Show.

Items listed in this checklist should be a minimum of items reviewed on show day.

Early Considerations

It becomes difficult to win the SSA when points are lost because: less than one-half of

the club members are exhibiting; there are less than two blue-ribbon AVSA collections entered; there is less than twice as many plants entered as designs; the education table lacks required information or there are too few blue ribbons awarded, compared to the total exhibits entered in the show.

Awards

Rosettes and ribbons are awards for excellence and should be properly displayed at all times.

Selecting special awards needs a simple plan to reduce the time it takes to find all entries that are entitled consideration.

There should be a predetermined list of category exhibits for placement at the head table.

Entries

Rewrite entry and variety tags that are smudged, scratched over or incorrectly written.

All design entries must be recorded in the Entries book. Double check the showroom exhibit count with the Entries book as the judging progresses.

Constantly transfer numbers from the Entries pages onto a summary sheet so totals can be given to the judges immediately upon request.

Classification

When Classification does a good job, all plants entered are clean, healthy, and pest free with no suckers or supports.

All horticulture exhibits must pass through Classification so Entries books are correct.

Classification should be readily available during judging to answer any questions from judges.

Clerks

Show clerks should keep their distance from the judges after initial introduction in accordance to the **judges rights to privacy**.

Updates should be provided to the Entries Committee on all awards in each class.

Help keep the public away from the showroom during judging.

Wait to unfold entry tags until all special award judging is completed; usually right before the show is opened.

Design

Each design needs to have a 3 x 5 inch card showing all its plant material. Designers' materials and equipment used to set up design exhibits need to be out-of-sight during judging.

The design area needs to be neat, clean, and orderly.

Judges

The judges need to be advised, prior to arrival, about what to bring and where to meet.

Some items provided by the hosting club could include clipboards, pencils, refreshments (include drinking water), judges tags, and necessary paperwork (sign the schedule).

Advise judges of any minor schedule changes; major changes would warrant pro-

viding them with a new schedule.

Before allowing the judges to enter the showroom, advise unauthorized people to leave.

Placement

The variety tags placed in each exhibit should be clearly written and centered in the exhibit.

All entry tags should be lying uniformly at the same spot next to each exhibit in both horticulture and design.

All classes should be evenly spaced and clearly separated for easy judging.

Be sure collections have the required point-score sheets.

Staging

Tables should be arranged to allow the best use of lighting and adequate space between aisles.

Most themes are suitable, but need a definite focal point with an outstanding view for the judges as they walk the show.

Colors should be harmonious with balance.

It has been my experience, both as show chair and as a show judge, that a certain rapport is established early between the judges and the show committee members.

Mutual respect and professionalism should be expected.

If your club has created a show day checklist that is different than this one, please mail me a copy.

If your correspondence unveils other interesting facts, I will continue sharing information with readers so all affiliated can benefit from it. (See sample form on p.45.)

SHOW DAY CHECKLIST

EARLY CONSIDERATIONS

- _____ Are at least one-half of the club membership exhibiting?
- _____ Are there two or more (blue ribbon) AVSA collections?
- _____ Are there twice as many plants entered as designs?
- _____ Does the education table have required information?
- _____ Are enough exhibits blue-ribbon entries?

AWARDS

- _____ Are the rosettes and ribbons laid out neatly?
- _____ Is there a simple method for choosing special awards?
- _____ Which exhibits are to be placed at the head table?

ENTRIES

- _____ Are all entry tags written neatly and uniformly?
- _____ Does the showroom tally agree with the Entries book?
- _____ Is there a summary sheet for easy calculations?

CLASSIFICATION

- _____ Are all plants clean, healthy, and pest-free?
- _____ Have all pots been uniformly covered; supports removed?
- _____ Did all horticulture exhibits come through classification?
- _____ Can questions from judges be answered quickly and easily?

CLERKS

- _____ Do clerks know the **judges right to privacy**?
- _____ Do clerks know how to keep Entries Committee updated?
- _____ Are clerks keeping the public out of the showroom?
- _____ Do clerks know when to unfold entry tags?

DESIGN

- _____ Is there at least one 3 x 5-inch card at each design?
- _____ Are all extra materials and items put away?
- _____ Is the design area clean, neat and orderly?

JUDGES

- _____ What were judges advised to bring?
- _____ Where are judges to be greeted and held until judging?
- _____ Are there adequate supplies for the judges?
- _____ What changes in the schedule should the judges know about?
- _____ Are all unauthorized people out of the showroom?

PLACEMENT

- _____ Are all variety tags centered and written clearly?
- _____ Are all entry tags laying uniformly?
- _____ Are all classes evenly spaced and clearly separated?
- _____ Do collection exhibits have proper paperwork?

STAGING

- _____ Does the showroom have adequate aisles and lighting?
- _____ Does the show entrance have an outstanding view for judging?
- _____ Does the suitable theme have a focal point?
- _____ Does the show have harmonious color and balance?

Fill your home with COLOR

SYLVIA A. FARNUM, PhD
543 Quixote Ave. North
Lakeland, Minnesota 55043

As I returned from our 47th annual AVSA convention, I marvelled again at the memories of the fantastic beauty of the show plants.

The anticipation of seeing the new introductions we purchased, growing in our home, filled my thoughts.

While at the convention, we heard a great deal of advice about growing plants for show. What wonderful plants are now seen at the shows! Some are nearly two feet in diameter — perfect wheels of overlapping leaves, bursting with health and covered with blossoms. But what about those of us who grow violets to enhance our daily lives instead of growing for show? After over 30 years of seeing the progression of improvements in our plants and having their company around me, I still prefer to grow my plants to provide flowering beauty every day of the year instead of growing eight to 10 plants for showing once or twice a year. I wish to have "hands on" experience with many varieties.

When new cultivars are introduced by our talented hybridizers, excitement is generated, pictures appear in the magazine, plants are sold, grown, and begin to win awards. How often have you said to yourself that you would like to grow a new cultivar? Unfortunately, if a person does not acquire a plant soon after introduction, it may disappear from the cata-

logs. Many hybridizers have left us and in a few years, the chance to savor their wonderful introductions passes. By growing a large collection, mainly for pleasure, the amateur grower can sample a greater number of introductions and select a few to occupy a permanent place in their collection.

One of the real benefits of growing a large collection of plants is the opportunity to learn to recognize families of violets, such as the Apache series or the Suncoast series plants, their traits, and their strong and weak points. If you are a judge, or plan to participate in our AVSA judging schools, it will be much easier to recognize strong and weak points of plants you have grown, and know well. Most of us acquire more plants than we originally planned to grow because there are so many beautiful cultivars. It is helpful to admit our goals and to plan to achieve them.

But how can one deal with a large collection of cultivars in a home environment? In order to grow 250 to 275 varieties, one usually has to grow 400 to 500 plants. Some plants will be propagated from leaves and several plants will have to be grown to blooming size so that a good plant can be selected. Good planning can make it possible and enjoyable to do this very well.

Here are a few things that I have found helpful in growing

this number of plants. These suggestions could help you if you have the goal of maintaining 400 to 500 plants in a home environment, for pleasure.

Growing Space - Home Selection —

If you are lucky enough to anticipate your hobby requirements when you rent or purchase your home, you can enhance your ability to grow plants. The climate where you live may require changing some of these points; however, growing will be easier if you have low east-facing windows, partially (but not heavily) shaded by deciduous trees, air conditioning, an even heating system, a finished utility room or basement area with tile floor for racks, a counter, water, and cabinets for storage near your growing area.

If your house has several levels, one level can provide an "isolation" area for incoming plants.

Places to grow and display plants are everywhere in your home.

Here are some examples that provide a choice of natural light or artificial light.

I have found that violets grow well for me on the \$10 wooden slatted shelves that are found in the garden section of nearly every discount store.

Three of these open, low shelves fit attractively across my picture window and do not

obstruct the view.

Another slatted shelf in my third level bedroom gives me a spot for plants during the three-month isolation time that I require for new plants.

Shelves in my basement kitchen window and laundry room windows are used for starting leaves and for small plants. A 40 watt double fluorescent fixture under the cabinets in the basement kitchen is used to display blooming plants.

The extra kitchen in the basement is an ideal place for grooming, washing, and potting plants.

Trailers are grown in hanging pots at the windows.

And, finally, three mobile four-tiered commercial racks, which each hold 16 trays under fluorescent lights, complete my growing space. If all other space is filled, one tray can be grown under the incandescent light on my dresser and extra plants can occupy TV trays at the den window.

Places I *do not* grow plants in my home include my upstairs kitchen where we keep our bird, feed our cat, and eat, and a small part of our living room where we grow several other house plants.

Timers - Use timers to turn lights on and off regularly. This practice saves time and gives controlled lighting to plants.

Watering, Grooming, Inspection Schedule - Since I am at work around 60 hours a week, I try to water using a schedule. Because of the climate in Minnesota, my preferred soil, and other factors, I do not wick most plants.

I like to hand water plants,

grooming and checking them while I water. I check and water half of my plants at one time during the week and the other half at a different time.

It pays to be vigilant!

Growing this many plants can become a disaster if a pest or disease gets away from you.

Crowding, Uneven Growth

If you choose this type of growing, your plants will be crowded and may be too crowded to allow each plant to grow in perfect symmetry. Do not expect plants grown this way to be show plants.

By using props to give high, low relative plant positions, one can improve conditions; but unless one has more time to spend and grows smaller numbers of plants, some plants will tend to grow unevenly.

Your weekly inspections can be used to minimize uneven growth by rearranging, removing extra leaves, and spent flowers, and repotting plants that need it.

This type of collection will give you a wonderful overall effect, even masses of color which are strikingly beautiful.

In order to achieve this effect, each plant does not have to be perfect.

Records - It is a great help if you keep records. If you have a "plant map" that shows your plants in their growing areas, you can use it to help you decide when to give away or retire plants.

If you have six examples of one cultivar scattered around your growing areas, you may be using more room than is necessary for one variety.

Conversely, a good map should keep you from giving away the last plant of a variety you wish to keep.

Club Advantages - Use your club to help you.

If you share varieties with members, they can provide backups for your cherished plants so you will not have to keep as many duplicate plants.

Our club has started a computerized listing which contains the varieties grown by everyone in our club.

Each member has a copy so you know who to call if you lose a plant.

Use your club and others you may visit as recipients of plants you wish to give away. Give plants to shut-ins, friends, and beginners. Be generous — your generosity will be returned in many ways!

A Wonderful and Varied Display - Now you can reap the benefits of this type of growing.

At any time during the year, your large collection will show profuse blooms of many types throughout your home.

You can arrange the plants to show off your favorites. You will become much more knowledgeable about each hybridizer as you grow and handle their plants and observe their growth and flowering habits.

You will recognize and appreciate a wide variety of plants if you continually add and discontinue cultivars from a collection of this size.

Your experience with violets will broaden your appreciation of the multiple beauties of our favorite house plant and your home will be filled with color.

Container Gardens

EDNA ROURKE

99 Old Stratford Road
Shelton, Connecticut 06484-6129

Containers are miniature landscapes planted and growing in a container.

The purpose of the container garden is to demonstrate the creative use of African violets and other plants in a confined space.

Container gardens, like any other design, should follow the elements and principles of design.

The elements of design are color, form, line, pattern, light, space, size, and texture.

The principles of design are balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, scale and rhythm.

With these principles, the elements of design are organized, and the elements are the foundation upon which the design is made.

The AVSA Scale of Points

Landscape plan	40 pts
Suitability of materials	20 pts
Condition of materials	20 pts
Cultural perfection	10 pts
Relation to container	10 pts

Landscape plan -

An arrangement of plants and accessories to create a miniature landscape or scene.

It should give the appearance of a well established

planting and should not be flat but should give the suggestion of hills, valleys, meadows, etc.

The material should be in proportion and you should have a contrast in both size and color as well as in height and texture.

As always, the basic concept of design should be followed.

Suitability of materials -

Plants should be compatible. They should have similar cultural requirements in order to grow well in a confined container.

Condition of materials -

Plants should be well groomed. The container and any accessories, if used, should be clean and free from stains or scratches.

Cultural perfection -

Plants should be well grown and free of any pests or disease.

Relation to container -

The size and quantity of plant material should be in proportion to the container.

The color and texture of the container is also important in relation to both the landscape and the plants.

The container itself should

not dominate.

Terrariums

A terrarium is a miniature landscape in a transparent container with a cover.

It should give the appearance of being a well established and maintained landscape.

Plants are in proportion to the container and no cut material is permitted.

All plants are removed from the pot and placed directly into the soil.

The first step is choosing a suitable container.

The container should be of clear glass. Colored or tinted glass tends to distort or magnify and can also inhibit any light that is necessary for growth from getting to the plants.

A container with a large opening at the top tends to be easier to work in and maintain.

Five or 10 gallon fish tanks, cookie jars, apothecary jars, or brandy snifters are just some of the containers suitable for terrariums.

Just make sure they are clear, unstained, and don't have any visible scratches that could detract from your design.

Light and moisture require-

ments are very important when choosing plants for your terrariums.

All plants are divided into groups according to light requirements.

African violets require medium amounts of light. Therefore, when selecting plants for your terrarium be sure to choose plants that require the same amount of light and culture.

You may want to consider some of the following plants: sinningias, episcias, begonias, ferns, ficus, podocarpus, aralia, false aralia, peppermia, ivy (there are many to choose from, including both upright and trailing growth habits) caladium, anthurium, hidera, pilea, spathiphyllum, pistia, serissa, and fittonia, to name a few.

Remember, plants should be in proportion to each other and to the container.

They should be harmonious and not extend above the top of the container. They should compliment each other as well.

To add interest, a variety of texture, size and color should be chosen.

The next step is the type of soil to use.

Terrariums do not have any drainage holes. Therefore, you will have to have a mix porous enough for good drainage, yet firm enough to support and nourish plants.

I use a commercial potting mix such as Swiss Farms and have always had good results.

However, a soil mix that has worked well for others is:

2 parts potting soil

1 part peat moss
1 part perlite
1 part vermiculite
1 part charcoal
(horticultural)

You can use any mix as long as it will support your plants. Just be sure to add charcoal to absorb any odor from decaying plant material.

Drainage serves as a water collector and separator. Without it plants would be sitting in it and rotting.

Small stones, gravel or pebbles may be used.

A soil separator, such as fine nylon netting, sheet moss, old stockings or screening is placed in one thin layer between the soil and the drainage to prevent the soil from washing down in to the drainage area as the terrarium is watered.

Without it, the drainage would become clogged.

A thin layer of sheet moss or sphagnum moss can be used to cover the bottom and partially up the sides of the terrarium.

This improves the appearance and helps to conceal the soil, separator and drainage. This is optional.

Rocks, pieces of wood or stones or beach stones can be used for landscaping the terrarium.

Small pieces of broken bricks, slate, hardened tree fungus, or pine bark nuggets can be used to add either a decorative effect or a multi-level effect.

Be sure to wash all materials thoroughly.

Now, let's create a terrarium!

1. Line a clean container with moss.

2. Place drainage material and 1/2 cup of charcoal on the bottom - approximately 1" to 1-1/2" deep.

Use less for a small container.

3. Put a separator over drainage material and charcoal - leave a space approximately 1" from the glass.

4. Spread 2 cups of soil mix over separator.

5. Remove plants from pots, taking care to remove some of the soil.



A TOP WINNER at a recent First Lakeland (FL) AVS show was Christel Collier, taking Best Miniature-Semiminiature Collection, *Ness' Sweet Pea*, *Wee Blue Eyes* and *Town Flirt*; *Ness' Sweet Pea* also won Best Semiminiature, Second Best in Show and Best Ness.

6. Placing larger plants to form a background for the smaller ones, create a landscape of hills, valleys and pathways — adding soil and decorative materials as desired.

Remember to gently pat down the soil around the plants for support.

Place a plastic 3 oz. cup in

the spot where your African violet is to be placed.

7. Put any ground covers such as moss, gravel or stones, etc., over any exposed soil.

8. Water terrarium lightly, using a thoroughly cleaned dish detergent bottle or meat baster to drip water down the inside of the glass.

9. Clean any soil or other material from the glass and plants.

10. Cover and place in good light.

NOTE:

Do not place in direct sun. If too much moisture forms, partially uncover. Water spartanly.

It's IMPOSSIBLE to stage a show in a mall!

DIANE RICHARDSON

9207 Ravenwood Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21237

This lament has been heard frequently in the past several years as African violet shows have moved from the church, school basement or community hall into the big world of the shopping center mall.

What was once a nice square or rectangular shaped room with a designated area serving as the "focal point" is now a free form open space with no beginning, no end, no front, no back and no clue as to where to start, on the part of the Staging chair.

The Staging chair must keep expenses to a minimum and carry out the theme of a show in such a way that the general public, as well as the show judges, will not be in doubt as to the show theme.

Nothing is more aggravating than trying to find the focal point of the show (sometimes buried behind a bush in the mall's greenery with a sign that is no more than one foot wide).

The purpose of show staging is to create excitement, interest and to catch the public's attention so they will want to enter the show and sale plant areas.

Some groups use the educational booth as the staging for a show. Although this can be

acceptable, several areas of interest are far better than one.

Below are some examples of items to keep in mind when staging your next show.

1. Keep your ideas simple — the more involved the staging the more expensive it will be.

2. Look around for discarded items that can be used for staging. Examples are:

a. "Chesapeake's Best" - old grocery pallets for a wharf, crab pots owned by members, discarded produce boxes, total cost \$26.00.

b. "Violets in Toyland" - life-sized styrofoam toy soldier purchased from display store, stuffed animals from members and toy wagons borrowed from local toy store advertising their logo - total cost \$60.00.

c. "Let's Party with Violets" - 50 helium balloons around show area with head display table and show plant tables trimmed in "balloon" motif - total cost \$70.00.

3. Try to continue the theme of the show throughout the show area — confetti and noise makers at ends of show table runs, stuffed animals to hold the section signs; turn the plant

tables into a continuous monopoly board using black construction paper for the separations of the monopoly property and bright colored paper for the property blocks.

Constantly remind the viewer of the theme throughout the show area, particularly in the design section.

4. Run the design section back to back so that approaching visitors never see a "blank wall."

5. Many times you can make use of the trees and benches that are part of the mall.

6. Try to arrange for "movie stanchions" to block off the show area from visitors during the judging.

These can be draped with crepe paper and signs requesting "No admittance until judging is completed."

Don't get so bogged down in decorating that you forget to enjoy the final effect.

Keep your ideas simple so that implementation should take no longer than a half hour to complete and be sure to make a sign with the show theme large enough so that it can be seen.

Finally, learn to enjoy the flexibility you will have in working in a large open area.

African Violet MAGAZINE

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(Effective July 1993)

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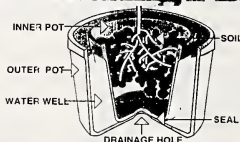
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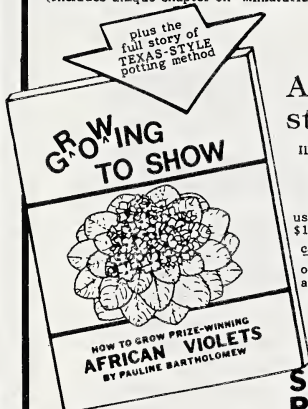
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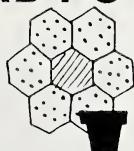
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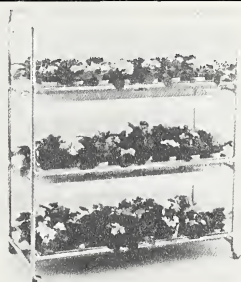
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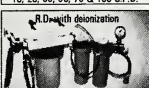
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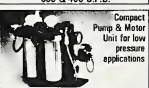
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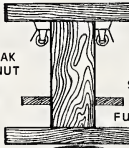
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			2.00	9.00	17.00

PLASTIC HANGING PLANTERS

4-1/2"	Wt. (only)	3" Deep	.70	3.10	5.60	12.75	23.00
5-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	3-1/8" Deep	.90	4.20	7.80	18.00	33.60
6"	Gr. or Wt.	4-1/4" Deep	1.05	5.10	9.70	22.80	43.20
8"	Gr. or Wt.	5" Deep	1.30	6.30	12.00	28.80	55.00
10"	Gr. or Wt.	6-1/4" Deep	1.80	8.70	16.80	40.00	78.00

PERMANENT TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.75	4.25	8.00	25	50
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.25	7.25	13.75		
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.35	7.50	13.80		
22" x 11" x 2-3/4"	3.99	23.00	45.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS - No Holes

25-1/2" x 13-1/2" x 3-3/16" Gr. or Wt.	3.25	18.50	35.00	67.00	
Elisa's African Violet Rings					
Mini (6") Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	17.00	30.50
9" Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	18.25	35.00
13" Gr. only	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

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Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$2.75 each;
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1 gal. (for large growers) \$34.00 each.

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Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax
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and Phone Number

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Formula	Type	Size/Price
12-36-14	African Violet Special	4 oz. \$1.25 12 oz. \$3.25
5-50-17	Variegated Special	1.25 3.50
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special	1.25 3.00
20-20-20	General Purpose	4 oz. 16 oz. 1.25 3.00
15-30-15	House Plant Special	1.25 3.00
Dolomite Limestone		2 lbs./\$1.75
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse	20 oz. 40 oz. 1.75 3.00
	No. 6 Medium	4 qts. 16 qts. 1.25 4.25
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	1.50 4.75
Perlite	Coarse	8 qts./\$2.75
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8 oz. - \$2.99

16 oz. - \$5.25

STURDY

4 oz. - \$2.99

8 oz. - \$5.25

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8 oz. BOUNTY,

4 oz. STURDY +

Mixer Dispenser Bottle

\$6.35

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$5.95

32 oz. - \$9.95

1 gal. - 29.95

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$1.98

1 oz. - \$2.89

2 oz. - \$3.98

4 oz. - \$6.39

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 2-1/2"

4"-5"-6"

ORTHENE

75% Soluble Powder

1 lb. - \$16.50

AEROSOL SPRAYS

PT 1300 Orthene

18 oz. - \$11.50

Knox-Out PT 1500A

16 oz. - \$6.95

DIATOMACEOUS EARTH

1 lb. - \$2.25

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$19.50

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Inch	Color	Type	Number of Pots				
Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2-1/8	Wh/Terra	Cotta RT	\$.90	\$1.75	\$ 4.00	\$ 6.75	\$29.00
2-1/4	Wh/Gr	RS or SQ	1.30	2.20	4.65	8.50	34.00
2-1/2	W/Gr	RS or SQ	1.50	2.50	5.50	9.50	39.00
3	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.80	3.30	7.50	13.50	57.50
3-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT or SQ	2.10	3.75	8.50	15.50	67.50
4	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.50	4.50	10.00	18.00	78.00
4-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.70	5.00	11.00	20.00	88.00
5	Wh/Gr	RT or RS	3.25	5.80	13.50	25.00	110.00
6	Wh/Gr	RT or RS	4.00	6.50	16.00	31.50	135.00
6-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT	4.50	8.25	18.50	33.50	150.00

NOTE: Good rolled rims on 3", 3-1/2", & 4" RTs

RS=round standard (ht. = width); RT = round tub (height = 3/4 width)

PLASTIC PAN POTS

Very shallow — depth about 1/2 the width of the top.

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	250
5"	Wh/Gr	\$3.30	\$ 6.25	\$14.50	\$25.50	\$ 58.00
6"	Wh/Gr	4.00	7.75	18.00	33.50	78.00
6-1/2"	Wh/Gr	4.25	8.25	19.25	36.25	88.00
8"	Wh/Gr	6.40	12.00	28.00	54.00	129.00
10"	Wh/Gr	9.90	18.75	45.00	85.50	208.00

MINI TUBS

In White or Terra Cotta color

TINY TUBS

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2-1/8" wide x 1-3/4" tall	\$1.75	\$4.00	\$6.75	\$29.50

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With Saucers - Terra Cotta color

1-1/4" wide:	10 for \$3.00	25 for \$6.25	100 for \$20.00
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32 oz. (5-1/4" w. x 3" h.)	12.50	28.00	52.00	200.00

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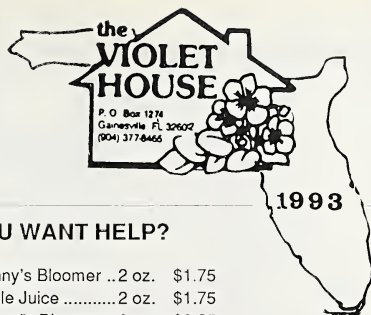
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DOLOMITE LIME - reduces acidity 1 lb. 1.30

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12" fits up to 5" pot	4.00	11.00	23.75
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African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

September • October 1993

Volume 46

Number 5



Strictly Business — Your Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

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Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704 - phone 409-839-4725. Individual - \$15, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$17; Commercial USA - \$25; Commercial International - \$27; Life - \$200. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a New York, USA Bank. See Membership Application on page 1.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$15; Council, State or Region - \$30. **MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION:** Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinnari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards, how to organize a chapter or membership questions, write Bob Green, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Cindy Chatelein, Office Manager, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704, 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. CST.

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BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Anne Jantzen, 2725 Katrina Way, Mountain View, CA 94040.

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COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact J. R. Pittman, 12406 Alexandria, San Antonio, TX 78233.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Esther Edwards Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068 by Sept. 1.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs; interesting speakers to DoDe Whitaker, Convention Director, 2085 Leeward Lane, Merritt Island, FL 32953. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Denver, Colorado - May 23 - 28, 1994; St. Louis, Missouri - May 22-27, 1995; Atlanta, Georgia - May 20-25, 1996

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REVISED PAGES for 1992 Handbook - \$1.50

NOTE: If your 1986 (yellow) handbook does not have the 1990 updated pages, you need the 1992 handbook AND the 1992 (\$1.50) updated pages.

IMPORTANT: When ordering revised pages, indicate Handbook you have.

JUDGES DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Ralph Breden, 127 Via Los Altos, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

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AVM EDITOR: Jane Birge, P. O. Box 1238, Nederland, Texas 77627

ARTICLES by Members & Columnists: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENT NOTICES: Send to Editor.

***Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists & Coming Events:** Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

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MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - \$6.95

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 1407 Calle Espana, San Dimas, CA 91773.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - \$25.00. Updates (when available) - \$25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

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OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Janet T. Riemer, 256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd., Pennington, NJ 08534.

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RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research, or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Frank Tinari, 2325 Valley Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$6.00 ppd. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets," The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Second class postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a nonprofit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$15.00 per year which is included in membership dues. Copyright 1993 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

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African Violet MAGAZINE

Vol. 46 No. 5

September • October 1993

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

ON THE COVER —PINK PATTI, a Marie Burns hybrid that won Best in Show at the 1993 AVSA Convention/Show in Lancaster, PA. Marie is from Baltimore, Maryland.

Photo by John Herr Photography, Lancaster, PA

Table of Contents

REGULAR FEATURES

- 3. The President's Desk - Hortense Pittman
- 6. Building Maintenance - Anne Jantzen
- 7. Beginner's Column - Kent & Joyce Stork
- 11. Eye on Design - Bob L. Green
- 13. Coming Events
- 15. Question Box - Ralph Robinson
- 16. AVSA Booster Fund - Ruth Warren
- 17. Registration Report - Iris Keating
- 18. Boyce Edens Research - Marlene Buck
- 19. Show Talk - Darryl Hoover
- 23. A Family Portrait - Georgene Albrecht
- 41. Shows and Judges - Bill Foster
- 44. In Search of ... - Dr. Jeff Smith

PERTAINING TO VIOLETS

- 4. Everything is coming up VIOLETS
- Information on African violet stamp
- 5. Invitation to Stamp Ceremony
- 9. A Really Great Idea
- 24. Quest of a Beginner - Rev. Robert Galley
- 26. A Bloomin' Affair - Iris Keating
- 28. Plant Sales - Diane Richardson

- 30. Quick Tips - Sylvia Farnum
- 34. My Personal Approach - Neil Lipson
- 38. Dish Gardens - Edna Rourke
- 43. Visiting Vivian - Mary Ann Locknar
- 46. Watering Methods - Sharon Johnson
- 49. Save Old Friends - Barbara Elkin

CONVENTION

- 25. Exquisite Stretches - Debbie Griffith

SOCIETY BUSINESS

- Supplement to AVM: AVSA Judges, Affiliates
and Commercial Members
- 10. Statement of Condition
- 32. Minutes
- 47. AVM Advertising - Diane Richardson

MISCELLANEOUS

- 6. In Memory
- 10. New Affiliate - UVASA
- 29. Mid-Atlantic Convention
- 31. Violets International
- 39. New York State Convention

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African Violet MAGAZINE

The Official Publication
of The African Violet Society
of America, Inc.
a nonprofit organization



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Index of Advertisers ...

A

- 60. African Violets & More
- 52. African Violets by Grace
- 52. Alice's Violet Room
- 63. American Gloxinia
and Gesneriad Society
- 56. American Orchid Society
- 56. AV Enterprises Press
- 60. AVS of Canada

B

- 63. Big Sky Violets
- 63. Bluebird Greenhouses

C

- 53. Cape Cod Violetry
- 61. Country Road Violets
- 52. The Cryptanthus Society

D

- 52. Discus Haven

F

- 63. Fleur de Fantasie
- 54. Florals of Fredericks

G

- 58. Granger Gardens
- 55. Green Thumb Collection
- 49. Greentrees

H

- 59. Home Alone
- Inside Back Cover
- HousePlant Magazine

I

- 51. Indoor Gardening Supplies
- 59. Innis Violets

J

- 55. JF Industries
- 58. JoS Violets
- 59. Judy's Violets

K

- 62. Kent's Flowers

L

- 59. Les Violettes Natalia
- 54. Lormar

M

- 50. Midland Violets

P

- 50. Patches and Pots
- 51. Plant Collectibles
- 60. Planters International
- 54. Purdy's Flags

R

- 58. Rice's Hybrid Violets
- 56. Rob's Mini-o-lets
- 61. RollHouse

S

- 54. Salt Lake Embroidery
- 63. Schultz
- 61. Shirley's House of Violets
- 60. Sonja's Violets

T

- 60. Teas Nursery
- 51. Travis' Violets
- Back Cover
- Tinari Greenhouses

V

- 49. Verilux
- 62. Verilux
- 58. Violet Creations
- 64. The Violet Express
- 57. The Violet House
- 50. Violets by Appointment
- 50. The Violet Showcase
- 58. Volkmann Brothers

Z

- 50. Zaca Vista Nursery
- 51. Zaca Vista Nursery

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From The President's Desk



Dear AVSA Members,

Another wonderful convention is now AVSA history. The convention in Lancaster holds many pleasant memories. Minutes of the Board of Directors are available from the AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704. Any member may request a copy. Please include a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Our Board of Directors spends countless hours working with their respective committees for the betterment of AVSA. Directors' names and addresses will be published in the AVM each year. They represent regions throughout the country. Write to the Director in your region and voice your comments. Directors will respond to your letters. They will also forward your letters to the appropriate committee. Keep your Officers and Directors informed. Send them suggestions for the improvement of our Society and advancement of the services.

AVSA Future Directions Committee compiled a questionnaire that is being sent to the membership with renewal notices. As of April 1, 1993, the response was tremendous. Over one third of the poll responses indicated that they did not belong to an affiliate club. What a challenge for our affiliate members! We have AVSA members out there that are potential club members. It's up to you affiliate members to seek out these members and involve them in the work of an affiliate.

Another interesting response to the poll was that 40% added written comments. Critical comments were accompanied with suggestions. Many comments were "thanks for a job well done." Hats off to our Editor, Jane Birge, on our AVM. Over 80% stated that we have a good magazine. The poll showed a high percentage of approval on the contents of the articles, the advertising and the photographs. Thanks, Jane, you are deserving of these nice comments. Our magazine is a source of help to new and old members. Send an article to our Editor on how to grow better violets.

Hope you had a nice summer. It is a good time to begin thinking of convention in cool Colorado next May. The Rocky Mountain Council under the leadership of Debbie Griffith is promising a 1994 Colorado Violet Festival. It's fun to participate in a national show. Set your favorite plants aside and promise them a trip to Denver next May.

The AVSA Executive Committee extends an invitation to each of you to come to AVSA Beaumont Headquarters, Beaumont, Texas, October 8th, 1993. This is the official date for the first issuance of the beautiful African violet stamp. The stamp was unveiled in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, April 24, 1993. Make your plans to join us in Beaumont for this very special event. See you there!

Happy growing,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hortense Pittman".

Hortense Pittman
AVSA President

Everything is coming up ... **VIOLETS!**

African violets, postage stamps and good ol' Texas hospitality awaits all who attend the First Day of Issue Ceremony, October 8, 1993 at 2:00 p.m. at the Beaumont Civic Center, Beaumont, Texas.

"The flower designs are always among our most awaited stamp issues," said Marvin Runyon, United States Postmaster General. "Realizing the beauty of the African violet, we expect this design to be very popular."

Postmaster General Runyon will be attending the ceremonies in Texas, along with his sister, Mrs. Peggy Rios of Springfield, Pennsylvania.

On October 8, the African violet stamp will be on sale, only in Beaumont. The African Violet Society of America, is selling the Official First Day of Issue Cover (envelope), for \$2.00. Contact the AVSA Beaumont Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, Texas 77704 for more information.

The ceremony, beginning at 2:00 p.m., will include musical selections from area groups, and an address by Anne Tinari, AVSA Past President and current Membership and Promotion Chairman, who was instrumental in getting the African violet stamp.

Beaumont Mayor Evelyn Lord, top United States Postal

Service officials and our own AVSA President, Hortense Pittman will also take part in this momentous occasion.

As we go to press, there is a good possibility that Texas Governor Ann Richards will also attend, as well as area elected officials.

In addition to the Official First Day of Issue Covers, AVSA will have other memorabilia available in honor of this historic event.

The United States Postal Service will also be selling items for this event.

Beaumont is filled with wonderful hotels and motels with excellent accommodations and its restaurants feature delectable foods ranging from the finest gour-

met cuisine to area favorites of Tex-Mex and Cajun.

The African violet is the latest flower to be depicted on a postage stamp. Others issued this year are the Garden Flowers booklet (designed by the same designer, Ned Seidler of Hampton Bays, New York), featuring the lilac, rose, hyacinth, iris, daffodil and tulip and the self adhesive rose stamp, recently released.

The African violet stamps will be available nationwide on October 9 in 10 and 20 stamp booklets.

For additional information, contact the AVSA Office, 409-839-4725 or Jane Birge, 409-722-4849.



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*The Executive Committee
and
the Board of Directors
of
The African Violet Society of America, Inc.
cordially invite you
to attend
The First Day of Issue Ceremony
for the
African Violet 29¢ Postage Stamp*

Friday, October 8, 1993

2:00 p.m.

Beaumont Civic Center

701 Main Street

Beaumont, Texas

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

ANNE JANTZEN

2725 Katrina Way, Mountain View, CA 94040

TO MAINTAIN

to hold or keep
to sustain
to preserve
to support

The AVSA Building Fund
is now

The AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

TO MAINTAIN - to sustain - to support

This is our promise. This is our pledge.

Contributions from April 1 - April 30, 1993

April, 1993

Don L. Thornburg, CA	\$15.00
Columbia AVS, SC - in memory of Marie Clark	25.00
Marshall AVS, TX - in memory of a founder and first President, Lois Marie Reels Huffman	25.00
Ken Froboese, TX - in lieu of traveling expenses from First Austin AVS	38.40
Neva Moten, TX in lieu of expenses from First Austin AVS	10.00
Gloria Dubose, TX in lieu of expenses from First Austin AVS	10.00
Garden State AVC, NJ in memory of Dorothy Warman	25.00
Central Jersey AVS - in lieu of judges expenses for Kay Lyons and Rhona Thurman	10.00
Magic Knight AVS, TX in lieu of travel expenses to Austin judges	40.00
North Texas AV Judges' Council in memory of Oran Crouch	10.00
AVC of Washington Co., TX in memory of Jim Nolan	10.00
Richmond AVS, VA in lieu of judges expenses to Elinor Skelton and Opal Nurjanes	10.00
Celesta Cirkil, VA in lieu of judges expenses from Richmond AVS in memory of Catherine Cox of Danville	10.00
Lancaster Convention	303.45
Helen Konsted, CT	25.00

Total for the month - \$566.85

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - \$84,909.85

Contributions from May 1 - May 31, 1993

May, 1993

Don L. Thornburg, CA	\$15.00
Meredith Hall, TX - in memory of Stan Hays, husband of Betty	25.00
Spring Branch AVC, TX	25.00
Barbara Cecil, TX in honor of the 90th birthday of good friend, Gladys Hudnall	15.00

North Texas AV Judges Council

in memory of Donald C. South 10.00

Total for the month - \$90.00

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - \$84,999.85

In Memory

LOIS MARIE REELS HUFFMAN, born August 25, 1909, died May 6, 1992. Lois and Veleria Gandy organized The African Violet Society of Marshall, Texas, in 1981, with 14 charter members. Lois served as its first president and then its parliamentarian, and other offices over the years. She is survived by her husband, Perry, to whom she was married for over 50 years; one son and daughter-in-law, William M. and Barbara Huffman; and two grandchildren, William and Gay.

*Thelma Shoemaker, Treasurer
The AVS of Marshall, TX*

MRS. CARL (IONA) MAIN died at the Villa Nursing Home, May 24, 1993. She was a charter member of the Tri-City African Violet Society of Ohio, which was formed in 1952. She will be missed as she was a very faithful member and worker for the society. She celebrated her 92nd birthday on December 1, 1992, at CJ's Highmarks Restaurant, at our regular Christmas Dinner Meeting.

*Margaret Morrow
Vice President
Tri-City AVS*

BEGINNERS COLUMN

KENT & JOYCE STORK
2501 East 23rd Avenue
Fremont, Nebraska 68025



To the ROOT of the matter

When looking at an African violet plant, it is easy to focus attention solely on the beautiful blossoms or on the lovely foliage. However, there is another important part of the plant which we do not see because it is below the soil surface — the root system.

Strong healthy African violets are supported by strong healthy roots. It is important to have a basic understanding of how roots work and how to take good care of them.

WHAT ROOTS DO

The roots of a violet serve two primary purposes.

First, they serve as an anchor to hold the plant in place. Hopefully, in your growing area your plants are not subjected to the ravages of nature like gusts of wind or sudden cloudbursts, although pets and children can wreak similar havoc. But the roots will keep a plant in place in the potting medium.

African violets have what is commonly referred to as a fibrous root system. It is comprised of many small fiber-like branches. The smaller rootlets are covered with root hairs

which are only as thick as a single plant cell. Because violets grow close to the soil, they are relatively well-balanced and do not have tap-roots, like those found on some upright growing plants. This results in a fairly shallow root system that is seldom more than four or five inches below the soil surface.

The second major function of the root system is to draw up water and dissolved minerals from the soil in order to nourish the plant.

It is the root hairs that actually drink in the solution of water and dissolved minerals from the little spaces in and around the tiny particles of soil. After entering the roots this solution is then carried upward and is distributed to the rest of the plant.

The process of transpiration, in which water is given off through the leaves, is responsible for bringing the water/mineral solution up, into, and through the plant. As water is evaporated off through the surface areas of the violet, a sort of vacuum is created which draws a line of water through the whole plant

from the roots on up to the leaves and the blossoms.

Stopping for a moment to think about this, you will realize that understanding this process can help you to take better care of your plants.

HUMIDITY AND ROOTS

When humidity is low, it is only natural that more water is going to evaporate from the surfaces of a plant, and the roots are going to need to work unusually hard to keep a continuous supply of water flowing into the plant. If the soil dries out, or if the roots are damaged by other forces, the plant will not receive enough moisture to maintain its leaves, and it certainly can't support the extra demands of blooming. Violet growers in desert regions will attest to the need to establish a proper balance supplying adequate humidity along with sufficient soil moisture.

Conversely, if humidity is too high, there is little moisture evaporating through the surfaces of the plant. And if little water is being pulled up into the plant through the roots, there is also little

nutrition being pulled up into the plant, even if you are using what should be adequate fertilizer.

A large show type African violet has much more surface area, and therefore will evaporate off more water, so it will need to be supplied with more water. If you use a constant watering system, such as wicking, matting, or some type of self-watering pot, the moisture is there and available and the plant will be able to take up what it needs. But if you are hand-watering, you will need to check on these larger plants more often. Similarly, a violet with a big head of bloom has more surface area than one that is not in bloom, and it too will use more moisture.

If you do not have high relative humidity, it is a good idea to cover newly potted plants with a clear plastic bag for a while. This is especially helpful for the babies just divided off a clump. Oftentimes these plantlets do not have adequate root systems for a while to draw up the moisture that they need.

DEVELOPING GOOD ROOTS

As stated earlier, strong healthy plants are supported by strong healthy root systems. What is it that should be done to achieve good roots under your violets?

Simply, you should be providing a proper potting mix and adequate water while watching out for pests or injuries that could eventually affect the health of the entire plant.

Roots must have oxygen in

order to thrive and grow. The above-ground portion of the plant cannot supply this oxygen to the roots, so it must be present and available in the soil around the roots. This is why it is so important to have a light loose coarse potting mix that allows for some air in and around the roots. And this is also why it is so important to pot your violets loosely, that is, to avoid packing the soil down into the pots. Packed soil results in less air available to the roots. Packed soil will also prevent the roots from being able to grow freely. When root growth is impaired, the overall plant size will be reduced.

Proper watering is important for the roots since too much water and too little water can both inflict damage. Too much water in the soil will take up space where much needed oxygen should be, and it also invites trouble with a water-loving fungus that can cause root rot or crown rot. This can be fatal!

Too little water can result in roots that actually shrivel up and die. Since the root hairs are the finest parts of the root system, they are also the first to go when adequate moisture is not present. If a plant has become too dry, you should give it only a slight amount of water at first, followed by a more generous watering a day or two later. This gives the little root hairs a bit of time to regenerate themselves before they have to drink in a whole lot of water for the rest of the plant.

Remember that violets have a rather shallow root system,

so it is best to grow them in fairly shallow pots. When plants are overpotted or are in pots that are too deep, some of the potting soil will not be filled with roots and may remain too wet, just setting you up for problems.

Fertilizer usually has the greatest impact on the appearance of the foliage, but in fact it's the roots that first benefit from the nutrients. It is generally believed that the phosphorus, the second number listed on a fertilizer package, is most useful to the roots because it promotes cell division. Be sure to use a good quality African violet fertilizer on a regular schedule.

The fine roots of a violet also are rather easily burned by heavy doses of fertilizer. This is one of the main reasons why most successful growers recommend the use of 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer to a gallon of water, and using that every time you water. A once-a-month heavier dosage of fertilizer could cause root burn.

Nature put the roots in the most temperature-protected area — the soil. Air temperature fluctuates much more quickly than the soil temperature, and the roots need protection from sudden changes. Temperature changes seem to inhibit the roots' ability to function properly, and also cause roots to die back. Soil temperature can change rapidly when the grower pours very cold or very warm water into the soil. It is generally best to use water that is no more than ten degrees (Fahrenheit) warmer

or colder than the room temperature. Similarly, root damage can occur when the temperature of the growing area is too cool or too warm for a period of hours. Many growers believe that leaves show the result of chilled roots by developing small irregular patches of lighter green with vein-like markings.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE ROOTS

What does a healthy root system look like?

If you slip a well-established violet out of its pot, its roots should be fairly evenly distributed throughout the potting medium. If the roots seem to be concentrated around the outside of the root ball, it is a sign that the roots are groping for air and are finding it only around the edges of the pot. If that is the case, adjust your potting mix by adding more coarse particles (such as perlite), because the soil is too heavy and dense to permit adequate air around the roots.

You should also be able to see plenty of fine white roots, a good sign that the roots are actively growing and thriving. While some of the older roots will have a brown color, it is mostly the younger, fresher, white roots that are doing the work of drawing up the water and nutrients that the plant needs.

Besides using your eyes to check out a root ball, you can stick your nose into it as well! Healthy roots will have a fresh earthy smell. Troubled roots will have a sour or rotten smell to them.

RECOGNIZING AND REPAIRING DAMAGE

When you have an African violet that just doesn't look right somehow, when the foliage is a bit yellowed or a bit dull, or when a plant seems to be standing still and not growing or blooming, it may be time to check out the roots.

If you do not find good healthy roots, or find a very small root system, you may need to make some adjustments in your potting mix or in your watering habits. Sometimes repotting alone can make a big difference. Do remember that overpotting can cause problems, so if you are basically having to restart a plant, you may be better off to pot down to a smaller pot. Anytime you have to do radical repotting, it is best to remove a row or two of outside leaves. A smaller, pared-down, or damaged root system underneath will not be capable of supporting a larger plant above.

Occasionally inspecting the roots of a plant here and there in your collection could help you to detect early on an infestation of soil pests, the most dreaded being the soil or Prichard mealy bug. These appear as small white, somewhat waxy-looking grains throughout the roots, but are often concentrated on the outside of the root ball. These are sucking pests that attack the tender roots, reduce the size of the root system, and inflict great damage on the plants. Measures to eradicate these pests must be taken immediately, carefully, and thor-

oughly. Get help.

DOWN AND DIRTY FUN

Admit it. If you didn't enjoy dirt, you probably wouldn't be growing violets. Take some time and examine those roots.

Check out the roots of your strongest-looking plant. Is the pot full of fine white fibrous roots? Now compare those healthy roots to the roots of a plant that is struggling. We'll bet that the roots of the second plant are far weaker and less plentiful.

Now since your hands are already dirty, go ahead and help your plants develop better roots. One of the secrets of successful growing is building a strong root system. Your plants will thank you for your effort.

A Really Great Idea!

Many of our members from throughout the country have reported that they have been in contact with their local post offices in regard to setting up an African violet display after October 8, when the stamps will be available everywhere!

This is a great idea!

You could do it as an individual, or take it on as a club project.

Be AVSA proud!

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.
Statement of Condition
December 31, 1991 and 1992

ASSETS

Unrestricted assets

Cash and equivalents	86,911	57,104
Due from restricted funds	5,246	9,120
	<u>92,157</u>	<u>66,224</u>

Property & Equipment	96,808	102,969
Other assets	488	1,464
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Restricted assets

Cash investments and loans	166,469	164,833
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

TOTAL ASSETS	<u>355,922</u>	<u>335,490</u>
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LIABILITIES

Unrestricted liabilities

Deferred advertising	5,890	6,134
Deferred membership	61,883	69,720
Due to restricted funds	1,552	2,582
Deferred other invoices	2,994	
Deferred other revenue	8,859	
Other liabilities	1,439	1,213
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Restricted liabilities

Due other funds	13,246	24,203
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>95,863</u>	<u>103,852</u>
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FUND BALANCES

Unrestricted fund balances	106,836	91,008
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Restricted

Life Membership Fund	92,975	91,775
Boyce Edens Research Fund	61,766	56,070
Building Fund	(4,809)	(10,356)
Hudson Award Fund	3,291	3,141
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Total Fund Balances	260,059	231,638
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>355,922</u>	<u>335,490</u>
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New affiliate **UVASA**

The Usambara Violet Association of Southern Africa/Die Usambara Viooltjie Ass. van Suider Afrika is quite a mouthful, but it is the official name of one of The African Violet Society's newest affiliates. Fortunately, it is also called UVASA.

Benny Katzeff, founder and chairman of UVASA, with the help of friends, last year organized a mini African violet show, for three days at the Goodwood Library. The show received good media coverage in newspapers and was also mentioned on Radio Good Hope. A mayoral cocktail party was held on the first evening.

Because of the excellent public response and the many inquiries, Katzeff decided to start a club which meets monthly in the auditorium of the Bellville City Library.

If you would like more information on this newest of new clubs, contact: Benny Katzeff, Chairman UVASA, 168 Voortrekker Road, Goodwood, South Africa 7460. Telephone: (021) 591-8431. FAX: (021) 591-1702.

The Mayor of Bellville is listed as a patron of the new club, and the city flag has been added to the AVM's editor collection of flags.

UVASA publishes a newsletter and would like to work with other affiliated clubs for support and information.

**AVSA Memberships
Make Great Gifts!**

EYE on design

BOB L. GREEN
997 Botany Lane
Rockledge, FL
32955

Do you want to be able to create designs — or, better designs? With this column, I want to encourage you to do so. I talk to so many of you who say you would love to, but feel that you will never be able to succeed. Some of you feel intimidated when you see designs in an African violet show — you feel that creating designs is beyond your abilities. Not so, design is for everyone; everyone can do it. However, we must all have a basic knowledge and understanding of design.

Webster says "design" is "a plan, a scheme, a thing planned for or outcome aimed at." A simple definition that suggests the practical and the prosaic, rather than the imaginative and the poetic. But a beautiful design is based not only on structural correctness and technical efficiency, but is also predicated on the laws of balance, harmony, rhythm, and one's appreciation of what is orderly and unified.

The *AVSA Handbook* states that "the goal of design is to use the elements of design (color, form, line, pattern, space, and texture) and manipulate them according to the principles of design (balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm, and scale) to create beauty, harmony, expression, and order." Design elements are the visual characteristics of the

physical components, or what the eye actually sees. Design principles are basic art standards based on natural laws, and are felt intuitively rather than seen.

The elements of design — color, form, line, pattern, space, and texture — are the basic building blocks by which all designs are created; and it is these "building blocks" that I will examine briefly in this installment.

Color is the element which we most readily respond to. It affects our senses and feelings. It is described in terms of hue, value, and chroma. Hue is the name of the color — like red, blue, and green. Value is the lightness or darkness of a color. The lighter values of a color are tints, the darker values are shades, and the greyed values are tones. Pink is a tint or light value of red, maroon is a shade or dark value of red, and muddy red is a tone or greyed version of red. Chroma is the intensity, brilliance, or dullness of a color. Scarlet is a high-intensity red, most yellows are bright, and most violet colors are dull. Pink can vary from a clear, bright pink, to one that is greyed like a dusty rose or a rose-beige.

Every color can vary in hue, value, and chroma. Therefore, selecting and organizing colors in a design depend on the specific effect desired by the de-

signer. Warm colors — red, yellow, and orange — are striking and cheerful; and cool colors — green, blue, and violet — are restful and soothing. Warm colors in the central part of a design with cool colors in the perimeter increase the three-dimensional quality of a design. Opposites in color, like red and green, when used together in a design, intensify each other. High and low values of colors draw one's attention, so extremes should normally be concentrated toward the focal point of a design. The more intense the color, the greater its pulling power; therefore, the more brilliant colors should normally be used in the greatest interest area of a design.

Since color affects our senses and feelings so strongly, it is a powerful element in design interpretation. Color symbolism is familiar to all of us: yellow with the sun, blue with water and the sky, green with nature, black with night, red with fire, etc.

Form is the three-dimensional shape of an entire design, and of any of its individual components. The basic forms are the cube, the sphere, and the cone — which are derived from the square, the circle, and the triangle. In design, the words "form" and "shape" are used interchangeable, but each is really different. An African violet blossom is a form; it has

depth or three dimensions. A flat leaf is a shape; it has only two dimensions. Triangular designs are the most popular of all shapes. There are many kinds of triangles, but the ones most often used in design are the symmetrical and the right-angled triangles.

Line is the most powerful design element. Beauty of line may lie in the natural, graceful lines of the plant material itself, or in the way it is arranged, or a combination of nature and the designer's creativity. In several types of designs, line is the dominant element: line designs, line-mass designs, and most vertical and modern designs. Lines have strong emotional significance — we react to line directions in relation to our own experiences. For example, when we sleep we lie down; therefore, a horizontal line seems restful, tranquil, and static. When we are standing up, we are alert and ready to act; therefore, we consider a vertical line to be attentive, aspiring, active, and, sometimes, dramatic or dignified. When we run, we lean forward; therefore, we consider a diagonal line to be full of movement, rhythm, and, perhaps, violence. When we relax, our bodies take easy lines; thus, we consider curvilinear lines to be graceful and relaxed.

Pattern, as used in design, refers to the two-dimensional shapes of things. It may refer to the silhouette or outer shape of an entire design, to the linear and mass patterns within the body of a design, or to the separate shapes of the individual components of a design.

The word "silhouette" comes from the name of a miserly 18th

century minister of finance in France. Originally, silhouette referred to the most economical portrait possible — an outline filled in with solid black. Today this word may refer to a solid shadow picture of any object or to the outer edges of any object. The silhouette of a design is the pattern made by its outside outline as seen against a background. The components of a design at its outside edges form the solid areas of the pattern, and the empty spaces between the components form the voids. The designer must consider the shapes of both the solids and the voids when creating a design. Voids may be created in the silhouette by leaving empty spaces between the various components, by pruning the plant material, and by cutting line materials at different lengths. Regular, repeated spacing of plant materials is precise and machine-like, and is effective in modern designs when using yucca, aspidistra, and sansevieria leaves. In most designs, however, irregular voids are preferable. The largest voids are usually in the upper part of a design. The main portion of a design should, in most cases, follow the general lines of the overall silhouette. For example, in a triangular design, the inside patterns may also be slightly triangular, and the center of interest or focal point may suggest another triangle, thus ensuring unity.

When creating a design, we deal with three kinds of space: the total space, occupied space, and spaces established within the design. Total space may be determined by actual lines, such as the sides of a niche, or the

boundary lines may be imaginary, such as in a free-standing design on a table top. Occupied space is that space occupied by all the components of the design: plant materials, container, base, accessories, and background. The space established within the design (also known as unoccupied space) is the element over which we have complete control — it is the space we create by the placement of the individual components of the design.

Texture is the surface finish of each component of a design. It appeals to both sight and touch. Texture may be described as smooth or rough, fine or coarse, dull or shiny, soft or hard.

For textural harmony, consideration must be given to all components of a design.

Texture applies to tactile or surface qualities — the way something feels.

Basically, it involves the sense of touch, which is experienced visually in a design.

Texture can add to the expressiveness of a design and help interpretation of a theme or class title.

Rough textured materials suggest strength or masculinity, whereas soft materials suggest more delicate characteristics.

We have discussed briefly the basic building blocks from which all designs are created. In my next column, I will get into the principles of design, which are the universal rules by which the design elements are manipulated by us to create order, expression, harmony, and beauty — and, ultimately, blue ribbon designs of originality and distinction.

Coming Events

SEPTEMBER 3 & 4 ILLINOIS — The African Violet Fanciers Inc. sale/display, Freeport Lincoln Mall, US Rt. 20, West Freeport. For information: Florise Hogan, 815-397-2000.

SEPTEMBER 4 IOWA — Des Moines Evening AVC sale, Des Moines Botanical Center, Swartz Classroom, 909 East River Drive, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information: Kathy Mathews, 674-4025.

SEPTEMBER 4 & 5 CALIFORNIA — Grow and Study Gesneriad Club show/sale, "African Violet Family Reunion," Buena Park Mall, on La Palma, one block east of Beach Blvd. Sept. 4, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sept. 5, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information: Dale Martens, 310-694-3173.

SEPTEMBER 16 - 18 TENNESSEE — Bluff City AVC display/sale, Oak Court Mall, 4465 Poplar Ave., Memphis. Sept. 16 & 17, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sept. 18, noon - 4 p.m. Free and open to the public. For information: Marian Zeller, 901-372-0283.

SEPTEMBER 18 MISSOURI — Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council's 11th annual display/sale, Fashion Mall West, Port Plaza, St. Louis. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission, open to the public.

SEPTEMBER 18 & 19 CALIFORNIA — Heartland AVS show/sale, "Fall Festival of Violets," Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Bldg., Rm 101, San Diego. Both days, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free parking, free admission, open to the public.

SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 FLORIDA — GSI National Show/Convention, "Gesneriad Treasures," and the African Violet Council of Florida's State Show and Convention, "Clowning Around with Violets," Belleview Mido Resort Hotel, 25 Belleview Blvd., Clearwater, 1-800-237-8947. Both shows are being held at same place and time. For information: GSI show chair, JoAnne Martinez, 963-7424 or AV

Council show chair, Bob Green, 407-631-1100.

SEPTEMBER 24 & 25 ILLINOIS — The African Violet Fanciers Inc. sale/display, Colonial Village Mall, Alpine & Newburg, Rockford. For information: Florise Hogan, 815-397-2000.

SEPTEMBER 24 & 25 LOUISIANA — Top Choice AVS plant and supply sale, Pierre Bossier Mall, Bossier City. Sept. 24, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sept. 25, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information: Vivian Kennedy, sale/show chair, 318-687-0127.

SEPTEMBER 24 - 26 TENNESSEE — Memphis AVS display/sale, "Violets Here and There," Goldsmith Civic Garden Center, 750 Cherry Road, Memphis. Sept. 24, sale, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., show, 1 - 5 p.m.; Sept. 25, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sept. 26, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Lynn Leary, show chair.

SEPTEMBER 24 - 26 MARYLAND — Sugarloaf Mountain Violet Society's 4th annual show/sale, "Horsing Around Violets," Francis Scott Key Mall, 5500 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick (junction of Rte 85 and I-270, exit 31-A). Sales open: Sept. 24, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sept. 25, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sept. 26, 1 - 4 p.m.; Show open: Sept. 25, 1 - 9 p.m.; Sept. 26, 1 - 4 p.m. Free admission. For information: Joyce Stenger, chair, 713-488-0267 or John Nabers, cochair, 713-488-0267.

SEPTEMBER 25 CALIFORNIA — AVS of the East Bay display/sale, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. Noon - 4 p.m. Free admission. For information: 510-465-3867.

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26 ILLINOIS — Twin City AVS show, "In Step with Violets." Donna Mann, show chair, 507 E. Grove, Bloomington 61701.

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26 WISCONSIN — Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs show/sale, "Violets All Around Wisconsin," East Towne Mall, Hwy. 151, I-94, Exit 135A.

Sept. 25, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sept. 26, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Irene Merrell, show chair, 414-567-6573.

OCTOBER 1 - 3 MINNESOTA — North Star AV Council show/sale, "Quilting with Violets," Southtown Mall (Old Town section), I-494 and Penn Avenue South, Bloomington. Free admission, open to the public during mall hours. Mary Endrizzi and Sandy Miller, cochairs.

OCTOBER 2 WASHINGTON — Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma sale, Poole's, 6th & Union, Tacoma, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

OCTOBER 2 & 3 MICHIGAN — Michigan State AVS annual show/sale, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Oct. 2, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Oct. 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open to the public, free admission. For information call: 517-631-6129 or 517-835-9864. Loreen Callentine, show chair.

OCTOBER 2 & 3 TEXAS — Spring Branch AVC sale, Memorial City Mall. Oct. 2, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Oct. 3, noon - 5 p.m. (or until sold out). Approximately 1,000 plants will be for sale and club members will be on hand to answer questions concerning the care and grooming of African violets. For information: Elaine Click, 713-461-4257.

OCTOBER 2 & 3 OHIO — Ohio State AVS show/sale, Kingwood Center, Mansfield. For information: Doris Palm, show chair, 513-435-0151.

OCTOBER 8 & 9 OREGON — Portland AVS sale, Eastport Plaza, 4020 S.E. 82nd Ave., between Powell & Holgate, Portland. Oct. 8, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Oct. 9, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free admission. For information: Jeanette Florke, president, 26185 S. Hillock Burn Rd., Estacada, OR 97023, 503-630-9871.

OCTOBER 9 & 10 PENNSYLVANIA — Pittsburgh AVS show/sale, "Falling for Violets," Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Rd. (North Hills, between Rt. 19 & McKnight). Both days, 1 - 5 p.m.

Free admission. For information: Daryl James, 412-366-5360.

OCTOBER 10 & 11 ILLINOIS — Glenview/North Shore AVS display/sale, Botanic Gardens, Lake Cook Road just east of Edens Expwy.

OCTOBER 14 - 16 UTICA, NEW YORK — New York State AVS 40th annual convention/show, "A Violet Mystery," Radisson Hotel, Utica. Edward Bradford, convention chair. For information: Marianne Gershon - 718-25.0180.

OCTOBER 14 - 16 TEXAS — Alpha AVS of Dallas clinic/sale, Olla Podrida, 12215 Cort Rd., Dallas. Oct. 14, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Oct. 15 & 16, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Public invited, free admission. For information: Grace Davis, 214-278-0389.

OCTOBER 15 & 16 NORTH CAROLINA — First Goldsboro AVS show/sale, "Violets Galore," Berkeley Mall, Berkeley Blvd., Goldsboro. Both days, 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. For information: Frances Deans, 919-778-3179.

OCTOBER 15 - 24 NORTH CAROLINA — Green Thumb AVS exhibit, small greenhouse, rear of flower building, NC State Fair, Raleigh.

OCTOBER 16 MISSOURI — The Heart of Missouri AVC nonjudged exhibit and sale, Columbia Mall, Columbia from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

OCTOBER 16 ILLINOIS — Illinois AVS fall get together, Holiday Inn, I-80 and Rt. 47, Morris. The cost per person is \$15.00 for the day and reservations may be sent to: Mildred Aske, 1700A Penny Lane, Crystal Lake 60014, 815-459-0612. Deadline is Oct. 11 and no refunds after this date.

OCTOBER 16 CALIFORNIA — Fancy Bloomers AVS display/sale, Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa. For information: 707-523-1614.

OCTOBER 16 & 17 CALIFORNIA — Delta Gesneriad & African Violet Society, AGGS and AVSA judged show/sale, "Double Your Pleasure," Sacramento Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento. Oct. 16, 2 - 6 p.m.; Oct. 17,

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information: Barbara Elkin, 916-878-0505.

OCTOBER 16 & 17 ALABAMA — "Alabama Judges Council's 2nd annual AVSA show/sale, "Violet Memories," Southern Homes and Gardens, Highway 231 North, Montgomery. Oct. 16, 2 - 5 p.m.; Oct. 17, 1 - 4 p.m. Free admission and parking. For information: Peg Phythyon, show chair, 660 Haggerty Road, Wetumpka 36092, 205-567-5433.

OCTOBER 16 & 17 TEXAS — First Austin AVS exhibit/sale, Austin Area Garden Center, Zillker Park, Austin. Both days, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission, public invited. For information: Mary Beall, show chair, 512-453-2732.

OCTOBER 22 & 23 ILLINOIS — The African Violet Fanciers, Inc. sale/display, North Towne Mall, North Main & Riverside, Rockford. For information: Florise Hogan, 815-397-2000.

OCTOBER 23 & 24 CONNECTICUT — Nutmeg State AVS show/sale, "Ghosts, Goblins and Violets," Branford Motor Inn, Exit 55, I-95, Branford. Oct. 23, 1 - 5 p.m.; Oct. 24, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open to the public, free admission. Edna Rourke, show chair. For information: 203-281-1715.

OCTOBER 23 & 24 MISSOURI — Missouri Valley AV Council show, "Violets Along the Valley," Ramada, 3320 Rangeline, Joplin. Oct. 23, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Oct. 24, noon - 4 p.m. Ramona Donell, show chair.

OCTOBER 23 & 24 COLORADO — Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers of the Rocky Mountain AV Council show/sale, "Gesneriads Around the World," Denver Botanic Gardens, John Mitchell Hall, 1005 York St., Denver. Oct. 23, 1 - 4 p.m.; Oct. 24, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission to the gardens is \$3.00 and \$1.50 for seniors. Cheryl Pratts, show chair, 303-466-7036.

NOVEMBER 6 NORTH CAROLINA — Green Thumb AVS show/sale, Tarrytown Mall, Rt. 301 & 64, Rocky Mount. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

NOVEMBER 6 & 7 NEW JERSEY — TriState AV Council's 31st show/sale, "Violets in Animation," Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 53 E. Ha-

nover Ave., Morristown. Nov. 6, 1:30 - 5 p.m.; Nov. 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Jan Murasko, Dale Jasaitis, co-chairs. Information: 908-821-8641.

NOVEMBER 5 - 7 MINNESOTA — Minnesota AVS show/sale, "Violets in Fairyland," Har Mar Mall, MN (Snelling Ave. just south of Highway 36). Nov. 5, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Nov. 6, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Nov. 7, noon - 5 p.m. Public invited, free admission. For information: Donna Tobin, show chair, 612-646-1775.

NOVEMBER 12 & 13 WISCONSIN — The African Violet Fanciers, Inc. sale/display, Beloit Mall, Rt. 51, North Beloit. For information: Florise Hogan, 815-397-2000.

NOVEMBER 12 & 13 FLORIDA — Suncoast AVS display/sale, "Fall Cornucopia of Violets," Parish Hall of St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 3747 34th St. S, St. Petersburg. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission. For information: 813-866-3468.

NOVEMBER 13 & 14 LOUISIANA — Louisiana Council of AV Judges and Growers (LACO) show/sale, "Violet Cuisine," Plantation Inn, 10330 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge. Nov. 13, 2 - 5 p.m.; Nov. 14, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free admission, public invited. For information: Gail Borne, show chair, 504-888-9407.

NOVEMBER 19 & 20 FLORIDA — AVS of Jacksonville's show/sale, Roosevelt Mall, 4495 Roosevelt Blvd. Show open mall hours. Public invited. For information: Chris Hall, show chair, 725-1566 or co-chair Barbara Murdock, 388-9003.

AVSA

JUDGING SCHOOLS

OCTOBER 2 — Tidewater AVS is holding a judging school, 8:30 a.m. in the auditorium at Norfolk Botanical Gardens. Teacher: Mary Boland. For information: Sue Hoffmann, 804-463-5383.

NOVEMBER 11 & 12 — The Mid-Atlantic AVS will be sponsoring a judging school as part of its third annual convention in Richmond. Edward Bradford of Woodhaven, NY, will be the teacher. For information: Wayne Coley, convention chair, 804-323-1734.



QUESTION BOX

JAMES SMITH & RALPH ROBINSON
489 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209



A bit of news — by the time you read this, I will have moved into a 100-year-old bar overlooking 20 miles of Canandaigua Lake (one of New York's finger lakes.) Better than the view is the fact that I've got even more room for growing my violets! Continue to send your questions to Jim Smith at the above address and he will forward them to me.

Question: I have problems keeping my multicolored blooms from turning one solid color during the summer. I suspect that the summertime heat is my problem, right?

Answer: Correct. This is a very common summertime problem, especially for those growers who aren't able to keep temperatures to a moderate level by air conditioning or other means. Loss of variegation is another consequence of very warm conditions, but it almost always returns with the onset of lower temperatures. Unfortunately, this isn't usually the case with multicolor varieties that have bloomed one solid color. Once having bloomed so, they tend to stay so.

The only real solution is a preventative one. It's best to avoid the stressful condition causing the plant to "sport." If air conditioning isn't possible, or economically practical, do the best with what you have. Separate the more "unstable" varie-

ties from the remainder of your collection, and place them in the coolest location possible. For example, place these on a lower shelf or in a cooler room.

Actually, heat is just one of many causes of such changes. Extreme stress of many kinds can genetically alter a plant — usually not for the better. A plant may "sport" as a toxic reaction to the (over) use of certain insecticides or fertilizers — another reason to carefully follow directions when using these. An abnormally low (acid) or high (alkaline) soil pH can also be a contributing factor. I use a soil with a pH of 6.7 to 6.8.

Finally, most "sports" don't merit introduction as an entirely new cultivar, even though different from the original variety. To quote from the *Judges & Exhibitors Handbook*, "Not all change is improvement. Many times African violet plants with multicolor or two-tone blossoms will have a solid color sport of mutation. This may be a sport or mutation, but it is not the type of plant that should be exhibited in a new cultivar class."

Question: In response to your column in the November 1992 AVM, I would appreciate your answering a question about the use of mason's twine in wicking. Should the twine be unwound so that only one thread

is used for wicking, or should the twine be used whole, as manufactured, for *miniature* violets?

Answer: Since miniature violets are grown in smaller pots, and have smaller root systems, than do standard-sized varieties, a thinner "wick" can be used. Again, wicks made of a synthetic material, like nylon, are best, since these will not decompose when constantly wet, as will wool yarn, for instance.

Though most growers choose to use a thinner wick for smaller plants, this isn't absolutely necessary. The wick will draw only as much water as the plant needs, so that a thicker wick won't necessarily lead to an overwatered plant. So long as the soil being used is "light" enough (contains plenty of perlite and/or vermiculite) wick size is not critically important.

On the other hand, a wick that is too thin may dry out, or become clogged with fertilizer salts, stopping the wicking process. If you find this is happening frequently, use a thicker wick, or try another wicking material. To restart the wicking action, water the plant thoroughly from the top and completely dampen the wick itself.

Question: Do you think my violets would do well in an office environment? I have fluorescent lights (not very bright or close)

and a northern exposure. Other types of plants that I've grown have tended to become "leggy," but one of my associates grows lovely, constantly blooming violets in a north window. What do you think?

Answer: The simple answer to this question is: not everyone's natural light is the same. Your violets will tell you if they are receiving sufficient light. If foliage is very "leggy," (i.e., long, thin petioles), sparse, and growing upright, it's asking for more intense light. Prolonged lack of bloom is another indicator of poor light, though other cultural deficiencies can also cause this. If light is too intense or hot, centers will become "bunched" and leaves can become yellowed. The best answer is to experiment, and grow plants where they perform best.

A more direct answer isn't possible since the amount of light depends on more than the exposure alone. My rule is: provide violets with as much light as possible, but not hot sunlight. Which exposure provides this kind of light depends upon where you live, obstructions outside or inside the windows like trees or drapes, the season of year, even the window glass itself. Here in upstate New York, even a southern exposure provides little sunlight during the winter months.

This is why artificial (usually fluorescent) lighting is preferred by most violet hobbyists. The intensity and duration of light can be controlled, independent of Mother Nature. Office lighting, though bright enough to read by, is insufficient for growing blooming violets. For fluorescent lighting to have any real

benefit, it needs to be within at least 12 to 18" of the plant tops, or closer. Again, how well your violet grows and blooms will tell you whether or not the light is adequate.

Question: Fungus gnats are a real problem for me, especially during the summertime. They don't seem to harm my violets, but they are a real nuisance. What's the best way to rid me and my violets of these annoying creatures?

Answer: Fungus gnats are those very tiny, black, insects that hover among your plants, or annoyingly close to you. Unless they exist in extremely large numbers, they generally pose little threat to your violets, but even one can sometimes threaten one's own sanity.

The good news is that, besides being relatively harmless, they are easy to control. I find that they lay their eggs on the soil surface (these can often be seen in numbers), and they love

a warm, moist, environment. I've found that, by allowing the soil surface to dry, their successful reproduction is halted. This is why gnats are more of a problem when constant-watering methods, such as wicking or capillary matting, are used.

If you wish to use chemicals, drenching with a Malathion solution (no more than 1/4 teaspoon per quart of water), when watering will kill the eggs. However, given the relatively harmless nature of the pests, and nontoxic alternatives to control them, using chemicals would not be my first choice.

A final reminder—After working outside, be certain to change clothes and wash up before working indoors on your houseplants. You and your clothes provide likely means of bringing outside pests into your indoor growing area. Leave the mites, thrips, etc., outside the home, where they belong!

AVSA Booster Fund

RUTH WARREN

P. O. Box 3664, Fall River, MA 02722

Our sincere thanks to all who are helping to reach our goal to provide necessary office furnishings and equipment. We are still hoping to accomplish this in the near future.

This is the time when everyone is beginning to think about Christmas. If you have not purchased one of the lovely hand-painted ornaments that are available to benefit the Booster Fund, please order now. Your order will be gratefully appreciated and all orders received by December 1 will be mailed in time for Christmas. Order now — one for yourself and one for a "violet friend." They make wonderful gifts. The cost is \$15.00 plus \$1.00 for mailing. Write to: Ruth E. Warren, P. O. Box 3664, Fall River, MA 02722.

The AVSA truly appreciates your continued support.

John Jones	\$100.00	First AVS of Wichita Falls	25.00
Anne Ostrosky	25.00	Spring Branch AV Club	25.00
Joan Dikun	1.00	AVS of Minnesota	25.00
Charles & Ava Bollar	100.00	In honor of Gladys Hudnall's	
Booster Fund activities	755.00	birthday from Mary W. Beall	50.00
Don Thornburg	10.00	The Pied Pipers AVSA	10.00
Village Garden Club of Wethersfield		Crosstown AVC, Madison	15.00
in lieu of speakers fee		Ft. Walton Beach AVS	25.00
for Nancy Hayes	35.00	Capital City AVS	25.00

REGISTRATION REPORT



IRIS KEATING
149 LORETTO COURT
CLAREMONT, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

REGISTRATIONS

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

***DOLORES' FRANK** (7858) 4/10/93 (D. Harrington) Double pink ruffled pansy/darker shading. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

Shirley Reynolds - London, Ontario, Canada

***SHIRLEY'S AMBER QUEEN** (7859) 5/5/93 (S. Reynolds) Double medium pink ruffled/dark rose on upper petals. Variegated dark green and cream, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**

***SHIRLEY'S MY TRUDY** (7860) 5/5/93 (S. Reynolds) Double orchid/wine eye. Variegated dark gray-green and pink, serrated/red back. **Miniature**

Hortense Pittman - San Antonio, TX

***BEACON TRAIL** (7861) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble lavender-purple. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature trailer**

***CHEERS** (7862) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Double rose/white. Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***DANCING TEEN** (7863) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble lavender/white edge. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***HORTENSE'S LITTLE SUNSET** (7864) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble dark blue. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***PEACHY KID** (7865) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble peach. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***PETITE TOT** (7866) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble-double pink. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Miniature**

***TEEN SWEETHEART** (7867) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble medium blue/white edge. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***TENSIE'S TRAIL** (7868) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/blue marking. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature trailer**

***VAGABOND** (7869) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink and fuchsia. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***WHITE RUFFLES** (7870) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white ruffled. Variegated medium green and white, ruffled. **Semiminiature**

Barbara Elkin - Auburn, CA

***QUIET LAUGHTER** (7871) 5/17/93 (B. Elkin) Single-semidouble medium blue star/thin pale blue wavy edge. Medium green, plain, glossy/red back. **Standard**

Jim Boyer - Orlando, FL

***SWEET CAROLINE** (7872) 5/18/93 (J. Boyer) Semidouble-double chimera red ruffled/white stripe. Medium green, ruffled. **Standard**

Hortense Pittman - San Antonio, TX

***SIGMA KAPPA** (7873) 5/28/93 (H. Pittman) Double white/pink, blue and lavender fantasy edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

Yvon Decelles - Boucherville, Quebec, Canada

***MONTREAL (7874) 6/1/93** (Y. Decelles) Semidouble medium blue star. Variegated dark green and pink, plain. **Standard**

Ruth Bann - Fridley, MN

***REBEL'S CAROUSEL SPINNER (7875) 6/1/93** (R. Bann) Single chimera pink pansy/purple stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

***REBEL'S FANTASY SPINNER (7876) 6/1/93** (R. Bann) Single chimera pink frilled pansy/purple stripe, fantasy. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

***REBEL'S GINGHAM ELF (7877) 6/1/93** (R. Bann) Single chimera light pink stickite pansy/darker stripe. Dark green, quilted, glossy, serrated, girl foliage. **Semiminiature**

***REBEL'S NORTHSTAR (7878) 6/1/93** (R. Bann) Semidouble white ruffled star. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

REGISTRATION CHANGES

***PAT CHAMPAGNE (7084)** Please change blossom to **Single-semidouble**.

***HAND MADE (7380)** Please change name to **HANDMADE**.

***KON TIKI (7371)** Please change size to **Semiminiature**.

***FORTUITOUS BABY (7796)** Please change name to **FOXY BABY**.

***PINK PICTURESQUE (7848)** (Eyerdom).

***ROSE PICTURESQUE (7849)** (Eyerdom).

NAME RESERVATIONS

Hortense Pittman - San Antonio, TX

* Funny Bunny * Golden Child * Grape Treat * Hondo Honey * Jupiter Joy * Pink Pizazz * Precious Gold * Red Bandito * Teen Rainbow * Teen Spirit * Teen Surprise * Texas Gold * (Each of the following is preceded by the name Alamo) * Dawn * Fiesta * Fury * Glory * Haven * Jewel * Rainbow * Sparkler * Sunrise

Barbara Elkin - Auburn, CA

* Quiet Storm * Quiet Waters

Jean Stokes - Sacramento, CA

* Bewitchin' Jeannie * Brianne * Hopscotch * In a Pinch * Lil Shrimp * Lil Tutimer * Minnie the Mooch * Oh My Darlin' * Whatta Cutie * Whatta Doll

Jackie Wiksten - Midlothian, IL

* Fleur de Fantasie * Tiffany's Abigail Trail

NAME RESERVATION RENEWALS

Jackie Wiksten - Midlothian, IL

*Tiffany Renee * Tiffany's Cotton Candy

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND

MARLENE BUCK

P. O. Box 38

Oreland, PA 19075

Contributors Please Note: When making a donation be sure to include the way you want your club's name listed in the AVM. Also, be sure and list the correct city and state where your club is located.

Donations received from March 20, 1993 through May 20, 1993

Paumanok AVS, Greenlawn, NY	10.00
Paumanok AVS, Greenlawn, NY	
in memory of Hugh Eyerdom	10.00
Long Island AVS, Freeport, NY	25.00
Mary Pat Weber, Moorpark, CA	
in memory of my grandmother, Sue Raymond	10.00
AVS of The East Bay, Oakland, CA	
in memory of Betty Whelan	25.00
Spring Branch AVC, Houston	25.00
Casper Bloomers AVC, WY	25.00
The Pied Pipers, St. Louis	10.00
AVS of Minnesota, St. Paul	25.00

PLEASE NOTE:

AVM Editor has new address:

Change your records to:
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SHOW TALK

DARRYL HOOVER

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To ensure each exhibitor and exhibit receives the recognition they deserve, please either print or type your results on the reporting form. Once you've completed the Show Talk report, please double check your spelling. I can check hybrids through the MVL; however, individual names require me to contact the particular affiliates show chair. This may delay the publishing of your show results.

Please include a self-addressed stamped post card with your report. This will allow me to acknowledge receipt of your report and allows me to inquire with the affiliate should the need arise.

ORANGE COUNTY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Mini-Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Pat Champagne, Rob's Gal Vikki; Best in Show/Best Semi: Definitely Darryl; Best Mini: Petite Tot; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Darryl Hoover**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini-Semi Collection: Irish Angel, Ness' Sno Fun, Frilly Dilly, **Leah Hudson**. Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Leonard Re**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Iris Keating**. Best Design, **Diane Bott**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Ed Hoefler**.

GULF AVC, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fisherman's Paradise, Tiger, Granger's Wonderland; Best in Show: Fisherman's Paradise, **June Murphy**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Woodland Sprite, Absinthe House, Spanish Moss; Best Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Blue Light; Best Semi: Irish Flirt; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Lillian C. Scott**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini-Semi Collection: Joya, Rob's Silver Spook, Wee Ted; Best Mini: Wichita Baby, **Myrtle Schneller**.

Best Trailer: Ramblin' Silver, **Mary Morgan**. Best Design, **Blanche Foltz**.

NASA Area AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Legacy, Dean's Cupid, Sassy Shirley; Best in Show: Fisherman's Paradise; Best Semi: Sassy Shirley; Best Trailer: Snowman; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Verna Lawrence**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Wildfire, Wee Hummer, Lil Pink Cameo; Best Mini: Ballet Blue Ice; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Onalee Lawrence**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Pat Gonzales**.

CAPITAL CITY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bryte Vision, Betcha, Chanticleer, **Della Carpenter**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Sweet Amy Sue, Ellie Gardner, Ramblin' Lace; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Sweet Amy Sue; Sweepstakes (Design/Horticulture), **Barbara Elkin**. Best Mini: Bokay Corral, **Ruth Jo McCoy**. Best Semi: Irish Flirt, **Oscar Faoro**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia Sigi Falls*, **Ruby Roloff**. Best Design, **Mae Mendes**.

QUAD CITIES AVS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smokey Moon, Picturesque, Pathfinder; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Precious Pink, Ness' Red Flash; Best Mini: Lucky Lass; Best Semi: Little Pro; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Jackie Jones**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Dimplin', Suncoast Paisley Print, Dance Time; Best in Show: Dance Time, **Cel Schafer**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sticky Wicket, Sundown Trail, Milky Way Trail, **Marlene Engebretson**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Alma Lavine**.

RICHMOND AVS, VA - Winners:

Best AVSA Standard Collection: Victorian Velvet, Utako, White Madonna; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Pride of Columbus, Precious Pink; Best in Show: Utako; Best Semi: Precious Pink; Best Trailer: Santa Fe Trail; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Alice Grundy**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blue Heron, Harbor Blue, Rainbow's Limelight; Best Design, **Bill Schmidt**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Magic Blue, Snuggles Delight; Best Mini: Wichita Baby; Best Design, **Sharon Long**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #0, **Barbara Peterson**.

MEMPHIS AVS, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: All That Jazz, Cotton Bowl, Optimara Trinidad; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Ann Shirley**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Sno Fun, Little Katherine; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Teen Trail; Best Mini: Everdina, **Katherine Steele**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Merrilee, Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara Little Apatite; Best Semi: Rob's Pink Satin, **Peggy Adamson**. Sweepstakes (Design); Best Design, **Iona Pair**, **Peggy Adamson** (tie).

MOBY DICK AVC, MA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Country Lass, Coralette, The King; Best in Show: Country Lass; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Susan Gimblet**. Best Mini: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Silver; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Margery Cunningham**. Best Semi: Moon Bright, **Jim Gimblet**. Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Ruth Warren**.

GEORGIA STATE AVC - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Coral Glo, Ballet Marta,

L'Ambassadeur; Best Semi: Surprise Party; Best in Show: Thunder 'n' Lightning, **Lois Duvall**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Timid Teen, Rob's Magnetic Field, Ness' Angel Blush, **Jim Wright**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heebie Jeebie, Irish Flirt, Snuggles Lady Dawn; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Jean Wright**. Best Mini: Lucky Lass, **Sarah Carson**. Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Angelika Selman**.

AVS OF ALBANY/CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tommie Lou, Granger's Desert Dawn, Pretty Mama; Best in Show: Tommie Lou; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Angel; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Esther Mason**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Denim Demon, Rob's Violet Sky, Rob's Gal Vikki; Best Mini: Rob's White Out, **Edward Perras**. Best Semi: Aunt Alice, **Helen Gifford**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*, **Margaret Califano**. Best Design, **Andrea Freeman**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Vince Ozimek**.

ALBUQUERQUE AVS, NM - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kilaua, Velvet Frost, Ballet Karla, **Estella Minnich**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Snowfields, Happy Cricket, Val's Sweet Dream; Best in Show: Wrangler's Snowfields, **Mabel Tanner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Shutter Bug, Tidewater's Sweetheart, Snuggles Blushing Doll, **Gary Wells**. Best Semi: Optimara Little Apache, **Rae Mortensen**. Best Trailer: Nancy Hayes, **Cal Iskra**. Best Design, **Margaret Schmierer**. Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Louisa Sando**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Joy Tallant**.

AVS OF WESTERN NEW YORK - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Magnolia, Paumanok, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Swizzle Stick, Rob's Whatever, Rob's Lucky Stroke; Best in Show: Pat Champagne; Best Semi: Rob's Cloud Nine; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha Punter #7*; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Ralph Robinson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection:

Saintpaulia confusa, *Saintpaulia rupicola*, *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Trailer: Pony Ride; Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Paul Kroll**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Gal Vikki, Rob's Heebie Jeebie, Rob's Whimsical, **Jo Wells**.

CENTRAL JERSEY AVS, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Chris Leppard, Sedona; Best Semi: Rob's Silver Spook, **Dale Jasaitis**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Fairy Prince, Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Diamond; Best in Show/Best Mini: Fairy Prince; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Ronald Ennis**. Best Design, **Christine Brenner**. Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Janice Murasko**.

SUNDOWNERS AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Elizabeth, Gala Pink, Lela Marie, **Lula Weathers**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Big Charlie, Lela Marie, **Phyllis Harris**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Irish Flirt, Jerrye Hebert; Best Trailer: Fun Trail, **Anita D'Antoni**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Puddy Cat, Rob's Pink Flizz, Magic Blue; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Norma Flynn**. Best in Show: Rodeo Country; Best Design, **Mary McFarland**. Best Mini: Rob's Angelle; Best Semi: Irish Flirt, **Kathy Oufna**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea 'California Gold'*, **Naomi Sanchez**.

MKO DYN-O-MITE AVS, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pensi Orchid, Wrangler's Red Bandana, Yasuyo; Best in Show: Pensi Orchid; Best Semi: Crushed Velvet; Best Trailer: Pkde Blue; Sweepstakes (horticulture), **Ramona Donnell**. Best Mini: Optimara Little Amethyst, **Harriett Schultz**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia House of Amant*, **Doris Carson**. Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Lina Tennis**.

AVS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Irish Kiss, Quilting Bee, Apache Land; Best in Show: Apache Land, **Adelle Johnson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Dandy Mandy, Mindi Morn, Silkscreen;

2nd Best in Show/Best Trailer: Cirelda; Best Mini: Lucky Lass; Best Semi: Fun Run; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Mini Papa, Rob's Moonbeam, **Anna Jean Landgren**. Best Design, **Barbara Goodsell**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Puddy Cat, Rob's Megan Lynn, **Karen Santori**.

EVENINGAVC OF DES MOINES, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Ontario, Optimara Molokai, Touché; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Dizzy Lizzy, Ness' Mini Sota; Best in Show: Optimara Ontario; Best Mini: Dawn Michelle; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Janice Tyler Blanchard**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ballet Marta, Mark, Flamingo, **Catherine Thompson**. Best Semi: Ness' Blue Squirt, **Janet Purdom**. Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, **Muriel Brill**.

ALPHA AVS OF DALLAS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tony's Extravaganza, Mignon's Moment, Wrangler's Green Pastures; Best in Show: Janice Ann, **Grace Davis**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Margery's Melody, Peach Puff, Devil-May-Care, **Debra Aleksa**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Royal Rich, Rob's Blue Light; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Debbie DeBruin**. Best Mini: Rob's Sno Blossom, **Arturo Lopez**. Best Semi: Hand Made; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Jan Davidson**. Best Trailer: Trail Along; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Ileana Lopez**.

NORTH STAR AVC, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Desert Dawn, Old Dominion Sparkler, Tomahawk; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Mini Sota, Ness' Sno Fun, Precious Pink; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Jim Graff**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Sizzlin' Pink, Yasuyo, Suncoast Candy Stripe; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Frosty Belle, Ness' Mini Sota, Precious Pink; Best in Show: Fantasy Spinner; Best Mini: Timid Ness; Best Design; Sweep-

stakes (Overall), **Ruth Bann**. Best Semi: Ness' Cozy Quilts, **Marcia Prince**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Sandy Officer**.

FIRST AVS OF DENTON, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, The King, Lela Marie; Best in Show: Tiger; Best Semi: Rob's Pink Satin, **Phyllis Reuss**. Best Mini: Texas Bonnie Rose, **Glennis Crouch**. Best Trailer: Dancin' Trail, **Helen Petersen**. Best Design: Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Eunice Curry**.

MONTGOMERY AVS, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Pink Camisole, Yasuyo Sport; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Snuggles, Sea Princess; Best in Show: Pink Camisole; Best Semi: Pat Champagne; Best Trailer: Baby Brian; Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*, **Peg Phythyon**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Fickle Flirt, Suncoast Fanta-Sea; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Wee Be, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Precious Pink; Best Mini: Ballet Snowcone; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Donna Ferguson**. Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Betsy Lorch**.

THE EDMONTON AVS, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Copper Cat, Rob's Macho Devil, Rob's Silver Spook; Best Trailer: Freckle Trail, **Margaret Gratto**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Artful Dodger, Snuggles Little Dreamer, Shutter Bug, **Joanna L. McDonald**. Best in Show: Moby Grape, **Betty Nagy**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*, **Doreen Smith**. Best Design, **Delores Myck**. Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **John Walker**.

LONG ISLAND AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Burning Star, Painted Sunset, Velvet Frost, **Marie Caruso**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Sentimental, Magnolia, Heavenly Notes, **Dorothy Vogt**. Best in Show: Picasso, **Dolores O'Sullivan**. Best Mini: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Semi: Snuggles Little Dreamer; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Fran Bermann**. Best Trailer: Ramblin'

Starlight, **Eileen Denison**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Anita Rudolph**. Best Design, **Rosemary Macaluso**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Evelyn Hannon**.

FIRST AVS OF WICHITA FALLS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Arizona, Optimara New Mexico, Splendiferous; Best in Show: Denim Halo; Best Mini: Optimara Little Amethyst, **Allene Peek**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Grandma's Zach, Magnolia, Spacedust, **Vee Sanger**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Frosty Belle, Optimara Little Navajo, Ness' Sno Fun, **Sue Ramser**. Best Trailer: Pride's Pink Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia nitida*; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Joanie Sleeper**. Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Mary Walbrick**.

FIRST NIGHTER AVS OF DALLAS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary Craig, Brazos Blue, Picasso; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Sunspot, Little Katherine; Best in Show: Mary Craig; Best Mini: Snuggle Bear; Best Semi: Irish Flirt; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Martha Turner**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ayako, Granger's Wonderland, Lela Marie; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, **Virginia Linson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Optimara Little Blackfoot, Snuggles Busy Bee, **Paula Foster**. Best Design, **Sue Frauli**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Bill Foster**.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AVC, CO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Trinidad, Star Bright, Rhapsodie Gisela, **A. Stancliff**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Canyon, Vigor Lou, Painted Sunrise, **Jeanette Kulinman**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Town Flirt, Snuggles Blushing Doll, Rob's Denim Demon, **Betty Margetts**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cutie, Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Amethyst; Best in Show: Outrageous; Best Mini: Optimara Little Ruby; Best Species:

Saintpaulia difficilis; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Nelly Levine**. Best Semi: Vagabond; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Bev Promersberger**. Best Design, **Peggy Walsh**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Geneva Holmes**.

UNPREDICTABLE AVS, MO - Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Desert Dawn, Optimara Washington, Optimara Oklahoma; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Puddy Cat, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Ness' Red Flash; Best Mini: Tiny Moon Goddess, **Wilma Wolverton**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fredette's Strawberry Ripples, Maggie's The Trinity, Jean-Pierre Croteau; Best Trailer: Rob's Sailor Bill, **Beulah Cuptio**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Macho Devil, Winnergreen, Ness' Mini Sota; Best in Show/Best Semi: Winnergreen; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Sue Hill**. Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Linda Golubski**.

MILWAUKEE AVS, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Nortex's Starlet Haven, Celine; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Winnergreen, Rob's Blue Moon, Irish Angel; Best Mini: Irish Dimples; Best Trailer: Pixie Pink; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Marie Maas**. Best in Show: DoDe; Best Design, **Joan Wilson**. Best Semi: Ness' Red Flash, **Marguerite Isbrandt**.

FIRST AVS OF DALLAS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Picasso, Mary Craig; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Katherine, Little Pro, Irish Flirt; Best in Show: Favorite Child; Best Mini: Petite Jewel; Best Semi: Ness' Firefly, **Martha Turner**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Green Pastures, Mignon's Moment, Tony's Extravaganza, **Grace Foote**. Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose; Best Design: Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Kathleen Tompkins**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia nitida*; Sweepstakes (Design), **Bill Foster**.

CAPITAL CITY AVS OF MONTGOMERY, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Hidden Beauty, Kathe Denise, Red

Ferrari; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Doodlebug, Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best in Show: Red Ferrari; Best Mini: Everdina; Best Semi: Rob's Doodlebug; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Barbara Stock**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kathe Denise, Makin' Romance, Phantom Flash; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Ruffled Joy, Irish Flirt; Best Trailer: Lamb's Ears; Sweepstakes (Design), **Doris Till**. Best Design, **Helen Johnston**.

WINDSOR AVS, CT - Winners: Best in Show: Grape Slush; Best Semi: Irish Flirt, **Sylvia Taub**. Best Mini: Optimara Little Azurite; Best Gesneriad (non-blooming), **Mildred Graves**. Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*, **Cindy Fagan**. Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Vivian Hiltz**. Best Underwater/Small Arrangement, **Nancy Hayes**. Best Dish Garden/Terrarium, **Marcia Kilpatrick**. Best Gesneriad (blooming), **Laurie Mitchell**.

MERRIMACK VALLEY AVS, MA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Smoky Mountain, Optimara Trinidad, Optimara Barbados. Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Geraldine Flanagan**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Molokai, Blue Puff, Optimara Aruba, **Anne Brumuller**. Best in Show/Best Semi: Rob's Pinky Winky; Best Mini: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Mary K. Orlando**. Best Trailer: Parminou Trail, **Edith Sterling**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia nitida*, **Marcia Balonis**. Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Fran Brichnagel**.

COPPER CITY AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fredette's Moonflower, Tomahawk, Ness' Misty Blue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Match Point, Rob's Pink Satin; Best in Show: Purrfect Love; Best Mini: Wunnerful; Best Semi: Rob's Pink Satin; Best Trailer: Bellwood Trail; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Mr. & Mrs. Wilson Hart**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Gala Pink, Nortex's Friendship Haven, **Mr. & Mrs. John Mennig**. Best Design,

Robin Yater. Sweepstakes (Design), **Catherine Gardner**.

AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: This Bud's Mine, Suncoast Paisley Print, Optimara Harlequin; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Sassy Shirley, Hand Made; Best in Show: Wrangler's Winter Hawk; Best Semi: Texas Touch; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Harue Grady**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Robert Croteau, Happy Cricket, Optimara North Carolina; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Sunshine; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia 'Kee Wee'*, **Bobbie Johannsen**. Best Mini: Ballet Snowcone, **Ellen McKinley**. Best Design, **Mary Harrell**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Christine Hall**.

CLUB VIOLETES LONGVEIL, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Sapphire Halo, Decelles' Triomphe; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, **Clement Perreault**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Louise Croteau, Desir, Optimara North Carolina, **Colette Perreault**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Wee Hummer, Rob's Sunspot, Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best in Show: Citadin; Best Mini: Rob's Sandstorm; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Angel, **Michelle Frechette**. Best Semi: Rob's Little Butterfly, **Rene Frechette**. Best Design, **Lise Robert**.

BARRINGTON BLOOMERS AVS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Joelle, My Wicked Ways, This Bud's Mine; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Quixotic Lad, Rob's Nearly Perfect, Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best in Show: Joelle; Best Semi: Rob's Quixotic Lad, **Joan Pugsley**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Nancy, Rhapsodie Vanessa, Optimara Yellowstone; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Nikki Collard**. Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Frances Jarnowski**.

VENTURA COUNTY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Rob's Almost Sinful, Wee Be, **Floyd Lawson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Pride of Columbus, Wee Be; Best Semi: Little Pro, **Charline Sims**. Best in Show:

Garden Party, **Marla Henderson**. Best Mini: Wichita Baby, **Susan Alvarez**. Best Trailer: Rosebud Trail; Best Design: Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Ann Wang**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*, **Clara Lee Bubnar**.

OSHKOSH VIOLET SOCIETY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Double Black Cherry, Dumplin', Jean-Pierre Croteau; Best in Show: Nortex's Snowkist Haven; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Kevin Degner**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Cat's Meow, Frances Young; Best Design, **Betsy Fox**. Best Mini: Puppy Love; Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*, **Cathy Heider**.

RENO/SPARKS AVS, NV - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Anna Kreeck, Silver Brocade, Sundown; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dylan Ross, Sparks and Spangles, Rob's Sweet Dreams; Best in Show/Best Mini: Mickey Mouse; Best Semi: Pay Dirt; Best Trailer, Skydiver; Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*, **Carol Mark**. Best Design (tie), **Betty Schmidt, Jann Selleck**.

SHO-ME AVC, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Nicole, Chiffon Print, Big Charlie; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Carol Allinson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Wee Be, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Silver Spook; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Norma Weir**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boggymen, Shutter Bug, Swing Along; Best in Show/Best Semi: Boggymen, **Pat Richards**. Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Tricia Taylor**. Best Design, **Sylvia Prince**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Warren Adams**.

BAY STATE AVS, MA - Winners: Best AVSA Stand. Coll.: Ness' Midnight Fantasy, Orchid Frills, Ness' Sizzlin' Pink, **Althea Major**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Nancy Hayes; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Marge Cunningham**. Best Mini: Optimara Little Amethyst; Best Semi: Precious Pink, **G. Lorraine Connors**. Sweepstakes (Hort.), **Harlan Montgomery**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Robert Clark**.



A FAMILY PORTRAIT

GEORGENE ALBRECHT
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Sinningia cardinalis

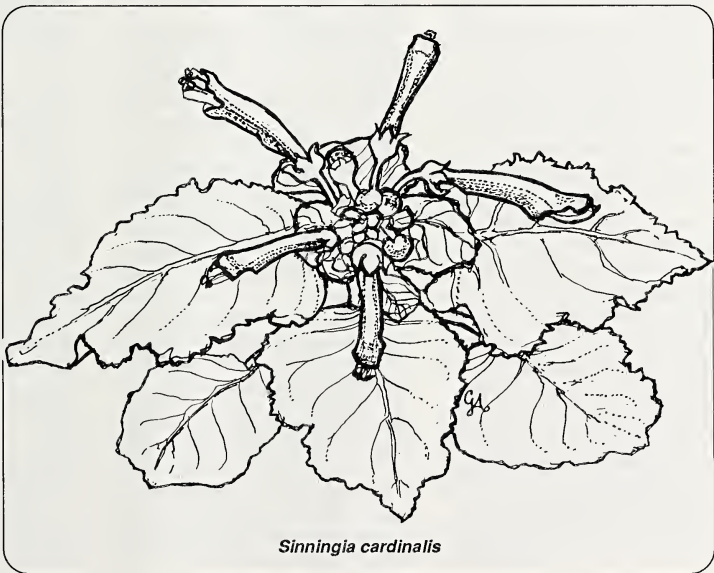
Sinningia cardinalis, (sin-NIN-jee-ah car-din-NAY-lis) is our featured gesneriad. This plant was once classified as a *Rechsteniera*. At one time there were about 65 plants classified as *Rechsteniera* and only 15 species of *Sinningia*. How delightful it was to find a tray of these cheery plants at my local flower shop. This tuberous gesneriad is very easy to grow. Although they are said to need dormancy periods, mine produce new growth at the base of the tuber, providing I have not allowed seed to mature. My friend, Ginny, gave me a tuber that was about 10 years old and more than four inches in diameter. It was perfectly round and had been shaped by a four inch pot.

The velvety green foliage and red-orange blooms provide fantastic contrast. The flowers look perky and last a long time. Although the plant grows in a loose rosette pattern, it will need a support by the time it is in full bloom. If you want seed pods to

mature, give the plant a little extra fertilizer. The tuber does best if planted just below soil level. The tuber will get "bumpy" and then small, green growth will emerge in several places. You can allow all to mature, or pinch out all but a few. One always tends to outgrow the others and it can become a single stem specimen.

It is a difficult plant to show because the lower leaves will start to yellow just as the prime bloom presents itself. If needed, a discreet stake can

support the stem or stems. There is no limit to the number of crowns when it is entered in a show. It seems to grow well under my lights with slightly more light than an African violet needs. Keep it evenly moist and feed lightly. A very light soil mix with some lime added would be perfect. A leaf or stem cutting propagates easily if covered to retain humidity. Do not remove all of the foliage from a tuber in active growth. I find that it comes alive with new growth if all foliage is



Sinningia cardinalis

removed except the two large, bottom leaves.

TIDBITS

Saintpaulia Ness' Firefly is just precious; try it if you can. Wait until you see Sorano's new yellow hybrids that they brought to Convention '93. The foliage is improving and the blooms are much more yellow. Rob's 'Dandy Lion' is too cute for words. At the slide show of new hybrids, the Pittmans showed a slide of a miniature or semiminature with yellow blooms, which had bloomed while they were at the Dixie AV convention. If I remember correctly, it had that nice Hortense variegation.

If you are looking for a good way to clean mineral, water or spray deposits from plant foliage, try using baby wipes. They do not seem to do harm and I guess they are very gentle. I cleaned *Nematanthus* foliage with them and it is beautiful.

I learned an interesting fact about showing terrariums, dish gardens and *natural* gardens. Forget any interpretation of the show schedule because the judges only consider the landscape design. For example, if the class was to be "Penn's Woods," don't be like me and let the dish garden look like a woods. The design must have negative space and almost every garden seems to have a great deal of moss. Our judges handbook gives a score of 40 points for the landscape plan, 20 for suitability of materials, 20 for condition of materials, 10 for cultural perfection and 10 points for relation to container. No points are given for interpretation of schedule

or distinction and originality.

I purchased a great growing mat at the Paauwes' Violets by Appointment on Long Island. It has a black perforated top sheet over a heavy mat that is sturdy enough to machine wash. I lined my trays with it and placed my miniatures on the wet mat. They love it. I cover them with the plastic

domes.

For those of you who are looking for Max Maas' hybrids, Violets by Appointment has many of them on their list.

How wonderful to see so many gesneriads in the convention sales room. I will have lots of new subjects for this column.

Quest and Questions of a Beginner

REV. ROBERT W. GALLEY
2307 N. Arrowhead Drive
Chandler, AZ 85224

Grandma was an English gardener's green thumb. It seemed that she could "slip" anything and make it grow. Violets bordered the part of the garden that face northward and Martha Washington geraniums faced the warm sun toward the south; but I never remembered grandma growing an African violet. I, therefore, grew up without African violets in my house and they were foreign to my floral vocabulary.

Having spent 20 years in Africa, one would think that I would have crossed their path somewhere in that span of time, but those years were spent in the hot, humid tropical orchid-growing part of Africa, and, as I learned later, African violets don't grow naturally there.

My quest for African violets started after all of my outdoor pursuits had finished — chrysanthemums, vegetable gardening and irises. With four heart attacks and little that I could do with a spade and gardening fork, I turned to something that I could raise indoors. On the library magazine shelf, beginning with "A," I didn't have to go far. My eye caught the beautiful cover of the *African Violet Magazine*. By then I had seen a parishioner of mine who had some African violets on her cof-

fee table, exposed to a northern window for light and shaded from the hot Arizona sun.

I sat at the nearest library table to glance through the magazine, only to be greeted by an author who lived in a familiar Arizona town. My ears perked up and I knew that if Charlotte could raise these beautiful flowers, then I could too. What I didn't know was that she raised only miniature African violets and later, viewing hers, I fell in love. They wouldn't take up much room and I could have my garden inside, without much strenuous labor. I was delighted when the display offered me a few plants, fully blooming and in great color. My 40 varieties of irises and 30 of chrysanthemums became a 48" x 12" picture frame of delicate pinks, orchids and vivid violets, brilliant florals and dark greens, interspersed with variegated leaves, which were as interesting as the flowers themselves.

My quest for gardening indoors, however, ended with a question. Why hadn't I seen these beautiful little queens before? To say the least, sharing them with some of my homebound friends will be a joy, splashing color on my friends' dark canvas of life and brightening their day.

Exquisite Stretches

DEBBIE GRIFFITH
1994 Convention Chairman

Over 100 years ago, an Englishwoman who toured the West, described the area around Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park as "exquisite stretches of flowery pastures dotted with trees sloping down to bright streams..."

Today, that description still fits one of the most popular areas of Colorado.

Located but two hours from the Denver metro area, Estes Park/Rocky Mountain National Park represent the best of Colorado.

Originally, Estes Park was a getaway for wealthy Denverites seeking respite from the summer's heat.

One of Estes Park's most illustrious residents was F. O. Stanley, inventor of the Stanley Steamer automobile.

In 1905, Stanley suffered from tuberculosis and doctors recommended that he relocate to Colorado.

Once he arrived in Estes Park, Stanley undertook the task of building a lavish, stately hotel.

The Stanley Hotel still is in operation today — aristocratic, a monument to good taste and an era long since past.

The Stanley opened in June 1909. It had cost \$1 million to construct and was "palatial."

Guests arrived by train to

Estes Park and then were transported to the hotel by one of Stanley's 10-horse powered automobiles.

White columns, Victorian furniture, a hand-carved staircase and an ornate brass elevator awaited the visitor to this lavish resort nestled high in the Rockies.

Cost was \$8 per day, meals included.

Always the inventor, Stanley's hotel was completely electric — quite a feat considering the year and the location of the hotel.

He personally designed the all-electric kitchen, ordered the decor for a music room and arranged for a gentlemen's smoking room and played billiards in the billiard room.

The hotel's opulence was legendary and many notable dignitaries of the era were guests at the hotel.

Today the Stanley Hotel is very much as it was in those early days.

A 1906 Stanley Steamer automobile stands in the lobby, as a reminder of how it all began.

Whether your thing is shopping or enjoying the beauty of the outdoors, this region has it all.

Literally hundreds of specialty shops and super restaurants and snack bars are available for

your eating and shopping pleasure.

From inexpensive souvenirs to one of a kind mountain crafts, this beautiful city has everything.

Rocky Mountain National Park covers 410 square miles and encompasses 91 peaks above 11,000 feet.

Hikers and the sedentary alike can find something to please them.

Wildflowers abound in the park as do pine, spruce, fir and aspen trees.

Numerous mountain lakes provide adequate water for the wildlife that inhabit the park.

It is not uncommon to view bighorn sheep or elk grazing in the park's meadows.

There are numerous beaver ponds throughout the park, also.

The tranquility of the natural park is contrasted by the civilized activities of Estes Park. No matter whether you're the consummate shopper or an avid outdoorsperson, you won't want to miss this spectacular region.

We will have special guides to show us this beautiful park. Bring your camera, video camera and a spirit of adventure, as we view this wondrous area during the 1994 AVSA Convention in Denver.

A bloomin' affair

IRIS KEATING

149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

in a bookstore

In the *Los Angeles Times*, several months ago, I saw an ad for a Barnes & Noble Bookstore near me.

Being an acknowledged bookaholic and also noting that they were affiliated with Bookstar, a company that I knew was selling the *African Violet Magazine*, my curiosity sent me there posthaste.

I fell in love with the store and asked if they offered the AVM. No, they didn't yet, but they would be getting the magazine shortly.

Sure enough, when I checked two weeks later, two copies of our beloved magazine were available. There was only one drawback — they were on the shelf closest to the floor and all but completely hidden at the very back.

Each time I went in (which admittedly was **often**), the same two AVMs were in their little hidden nook.

I kept asking the staff if any had been sold, but the answer was always no. Suddenly it occurred to me that they might be willing to display our beautiful magazine in the front of the store if they had a blooming African violet to capture the customers' attention.

On my very next visit I offered to keep a lovely fresh plant in the store if they would agree to a prominent display.

I would water and care for it, substituting another one when

"Suddenly it occurred to me that they might be willing to display our beautiful magazine in the front of the store if they had a blooming African violet to capture the customers' attention."

blooms had faded.

Much to my delight, they accepted!

The store arranged an attractive three-shelf display behind the cash registers, high enough for the plant to be easily seen, yet out of harm's way.

I fashioned a holder that would tilt the plant forward for better viewing. Near the AVM, they placed several African violet culture books and other indoor gardening booklets.

The employees have received numerous comments about the plants and have given interested customers printed sheets that I supplied, listing all African Violet Council of Southern California affiliated clubs with meeting

information.

I am also providing my local club's business cards which bear an invitation to attend our meetings.

This project has not involved much of my time, and hopefully it will result in increased AVSA membership, greater AVM readership and more members for our local clubs.

Won't you visit your area bookstores (see list below) and make them a similar offer? Perhaps your club would be interested in making it a cooperative effort so that all the responsibility does not fall on one person.

Promote a bloomin' affair with **your** bookstore!

Bookstores selling the *African Violet Magazine*

AL Bookstar - Huntsville

AZ Barnes & Noble - Mesa, Tucson
Bookstar - Phoenix, Scottsdale

CA Barnes & Noble - Costa Mesa, Escondido, Fresno,
Larkspur, Montclair, Newport Beach, Palm Desert,

	San Diego, Santa Barbara Bookstar - Culver City, La Mesa, Oceanside, Torrance, Woodland Hills	NH	Barnes & Noble - Manchester, Nashua
		NJ	Barnes & Noble - Livingston, Paramus (2), Springfield, West Windsor Borders Book Shop - Marlton
CO	Barnes & Noble - Boulder, Greenwood Village, Littleton	NM	Bookstar - Albuquerque
CT	Barnes & Noble - Danbury, Enfield, Norwalk, Waterbury, West Hartford, Westport News Haven - New Haven	NV	Bookstar - Las Vegas
FL	Barnes & Noble - Boynton Beach Bookstop - Coral Springs, Naples, West Melbourne	NY	Barnes & Noble - Amherst, Colonie, Hartsdale, Nanuet, Poughkeepsie, Vestal, White Plains Le Dernier Mot - Champlain
GA	Oxford at Paces - Atlanta Oxford Pharr - Atlanta	OH	Baluk's Bookstore - Westlake Barnes & Noble - Cincinnati, Shaker Heights, Whitehall Borders Book Shop - Cincinnati
ID	Barnes & Noble - Boise	OK	Bollinger's Books - Oklahoma City
IL	Barnes & Noble - Deerfield, Oakbrook Terrace	OR	Barnes & Noble - Portland, Tigard
KS	Bookstar - Wichita Borders Book Shop - Overland Park	PA	Barnes & Noble - Abington Gene's Books - King of Prussia
KY	Hypnotic Eye - Lexington Joseph-Beth Booksellers - Lexington	RI	Barnes & Noble - Warwick
MA	Barnes & Noble - Auburn, Boston, Brookline, Burlington, Hyannis, North Dartmouth Newsbreak - Swansea	TN	Barnes & Noble - Memphis Bookstar - Knoxville, Memphis
MD	Barnes & Noble - Annapolis	TX	Bookstop - Austin (2), Dallas (2), Fort Worth, Houston (5), Humble, Mesquite, San Antonio (2), Sugarland Books etc. - San Marcos Daily Planet News - Midland Hastings - Amarillo (2) Original Magazine (#2, #3) - Dallas (2)
MI	Barnes & Noble - Grosse Pointe, Rochester Hills	UT	Barnes & Noble - Salt Lake City, West Bountiful
MN	Barnes & Noble - Burnsville, Edina, Minnetonka, Roseville Shinder's - Bloomington, Burnsville, Eden Prairie, Edina, Minneapolis (2), Minnetonka, Roseville	VA	Barnes & Noble - Richmond (2) Borders Book Shop - Vienna
NC	Barnes & Noble - Charlotte, Pineville Bookstar - Cary	VT	Barnes & Noble - South Burlington
		WA	Barnes & Noble - Bellevue

Plant Sales for your club can be easy

M. DIANE RICHARDSON
9207 Ravenwood Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21237

Although a great many clubs buy their sale plants, some still raise their own.

When plants are purchased, all proceeds go directly to the club.

Clubs usually take a percentage of the sale price when members bring their extra plants in for sale or decide to sell their show plants.

This percentage can range from a 50-50 split for young clubs trying to raise funds, to a 90-10 split for well-established organizations whose membership would like to have extra money for their electric bill, purchase supplies, and buy new varieties.

Some even use this as a starter fund to attend the AVSA convention.

Is there a system for selling sale and show plants?

You bet there is!

Listed below are some suggestions for handling sales that may be of assistance with your club's next show or sale.

SALE TABLES

1. Only accept well grown healthy plants that **HAVE BEEN GROOMED**. I know everyone gets busy at show time, but putting plants on a sales table with long strappy immature hanging leaves only

detracts from the other plants. Remember, if it belongs in the garbage, leave it in the garbage can at home. Don't ruin the reputation of your club with a poorly grown plant.

2. Work out a price structure on sale plants for your club:
 - a. Make sure the plant pot is marked with the name of the variety, type (standard, mini, etc.) and growers name.
 - b. Insert a stake in the pot with the name of the variety, growers name and the price, clearly marked. When sold, this stake can be removed so that the members sales can be totaled accurately and quickly. When a stake is used, customers can easily see the price of each plant.
 - c. Never let the sale plant tables appear too crowded or too empty. If a large amount of any one variety is available for sale, try not to put all of them on the table at one time. It looks too much like a bargain basement sale — imagine a table full of Mauna Loa chimeras. Buyers need

to feel they are getting something special.

- d. Group types of plants together so that customers can find the specific size that is right for them. A sample list would be: minis and semiminis, trailers, standards (all), species, other gesneriads.

SHOW PLANTS

One package of round adhesive circles (different colors), several receipt books and a few pens are the supplies necessary to handle the sale of show plants.

1. After judging is completed, club members place the sale price of their plants on the bottom corner of the entry card.
2. When a plant is sold, the club member handling the sale places an adhesive circle over the price and writes "SOLD" on it with the buyer's name.
3. A receipt is then filled out with the customer's name, name of the plant, section number and class number.
4. The customer is walked to the cashier to pay for the plant.

5. They are given a copy of the receipt which has been stamped - PAID - to be used in retrieving their plant when the show is over. It is important that the club member handling sales, makes sure that the show plant is paid for prior to giving the receipt to the customer. There have been cases where the customer decided not to purchase the plant and the plant remained unsold because the adhesive sticker was never removed.

6. The customer is told what time to return for their plant.

7. At check out time, each customer is given a number. When their number is called, a club member takes their receipt, locates the plant and escorts them to the wrapping area so their plant can be packaged for removal.

Sounds complicated — it isn't. In less than 15 minutes, a show room can be cleared of 100 to 200 plants.

Where do you find all those boxes for large plants?

Try beer boxes turned over with an "X" cut in them to push the pot half way through.

Not only is it easily carried, but the flat bottom of the box works as a support for the leaves.

FINAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Who should run the sales

tables: Find the talkers, those club members who are comfortable explaining and teaching others how to grow plants. Remember, every customer is begging to be told that "they can grow that plant." Meet their needs and they will meet yours.

2. Suppose some members

don't like to talk? These members would be great at wrapping and packing plants and handling the money. You will usually find that the "talkers" are not your best choice for these two jobs and in fact, usually don't want to do them anyway.

Good luck and good selling!

Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society to hold annual Convention/Show

WAYNE COLEY, CONVENTION CHAIR

The Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society will hold its 3rd annual convention at the Holiday Inn Central, Richmond, VA, November 11-13, 1993. The theme will be "A Cornucopia of Violets."

The full convention is open to members only; however, the plant sale room and show room will be open to the public with free admission.

The sale room will be open on November 11 from 2:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; on November 12 from 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.; and on November 13 from 9:00 a.m. -

5:00 p.m.

The show room will be open to the public on November 13 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Hortense Pittman will be one of the program leaders on Saturday. Her conference will be "The Pittman's Way of Growing and Showing."

There will be a Judges School on November 11-12 taught by Edward Bradford of Woodhaven, NY.

For more information contact: Wayne Coley, convention chair, 804-323-1734 or Sharon Long, 804-740-5322.

**Don't miss all
of the excitement
at the 1994
AVSA Convention/Show
in Denver, Colorado!**

Quick tips on managing adversity

SYLVIA A. FARNUM, PhD
543 Quixote Avenue North
Lakeland, Minnesota 55043

Flowers everywhere — beautiful violets with bright yellow pollen sacs and bright or dark petals ... but, wait ... oh, no!

Do you see a few grains of yellow pollen spilled on a dark flower? ... This dreaded experience has been repeated often because thrips are a very common violet pest.

Do you know the four most common danger signals in an African violet collection?

Most of us can recognize the look of a healthy plant; however, there are many conditions that can contribute to plant health.

It takes a great deal of experience to recognize the effect of all of these factors on the appearance of a plant.

Many violet health problems can be ignored, but some can not. What are the symptoms of problems that can not be ignored?

The four most common danger signs and the appropriate action to take are summarized below.

Danger Sign/Symptom Problem #1

Pollen spilled on dark blossoms; close inspection shows holes in anthers; small insects dart rapidly around petals and hide under blossom edges and in anthers. You may see one or more dried blossom in a fresh clump.

Identification of Problem #1

Thrips

Action to take for Problem #1

Spray plant *immediately* with an insecticide known to kill thrips without moving or shaking the plant.

Schultz's Instant insecticide, made from botanical pyrethrins (mixed 50/50 with water), or "i-bomb" can be used.

After the thrips are immobilized, *remove all buds and flowers* and spray plant thoroughly with insecticide, making sure to spray under leaves and on top of the soil. Remove the buds and blossoms from all plants on the same rack and spray as described above.

Removing the flowers and buds and spraying the entire area is the only way to control thrips.

Danger Sign/Symptom Problem #2

Tight centers which may be badly damaged, gray, hairy, and/or very short blossom stems, distorted knobby blossom stems, blotchy flowers.

Identification of Problem #2 Mites

Action to take for Problem #2

Sprinkle fresh Diazinon granules directly into the center of the infected plant and on to the soil.

Water the plant and cover it with a piece of plastic film or a clear plastic bag. Let it stand in its usual place for a week and then open the bag, shake the used Diazinon into a disposable plastic bag, replace it with fresh

Diazinon granules, water, if necessary, and replace, covering bag for another week.

Do not be alarmed if some mold appears on the Diazinon granules. This will not affect the cure. Be sure to avoid touching other plants without decontaminating hands and clothing. Water Diazinon granules into the soil of surrounding plants.

Cover the whole area with a thin plastic film. If your plant grows a set of new centers in a few weeks, select one and remove the rest.

The first few leaves are often characteristically shaped, rounded, and dark, but they can be removed as the plant grows.

After an outbreak of mites, add Diazinon granules to your soil during planting, following the directions carefully.

Danger Sign/Symptom Problem #3

Plant is wilted, droopy-looking, even when it is not dry; may have yellowed leaves

Identification of Problem #3

Stem rot or Pritchard soil mealy bugs

Action to take for Problem #3

This problem is very serious and *must* be dealt with at once! Your plant may have stem rot. To check for this, tug lightly on the plant.

If it is rotting, it may break at the soil line or may feel as though it is barely connected to the soil and root system. On a piece of

isolated newspaper, remove the dirt and inspect the stem and roots.

If rot is the problem, you will probably see it and may even note an odor. If this is the case, carefully cut away all of the brown rotted stem and root tissue until you have only healthy green tissue left.

Re-root the plant in water or in a vermiculite mixture and replant.

If your problem is not rot, or even if it is, check the soil around the roots carefully. Pritchard mealy bugs look like small white grains of rice, but if you watch closely, you can see that they are alive. Sometimes there is a sort of web and you may see eggs in clumps. If you find these insects, dispose of all plant material that has been in contact with the soil.

If you save the plant crown, be very careful that all of the lower leaves are removed so that bugs can not be carried along in the creases.

Remember these insects like the stems of violets around the soil line. Wash the plant crown or leaves you wish to retain with a dilute soap and Clorox solution. Root in a separate container, isolated by a saucer and plastic bag, or use a separate plastic box.

Treatment of the soil in the box and for replanting with Diazinon granules is recommended. Be sure to check the soil mixture and the roots carefully before repotting.

If your collection is too large, you may not wish to discard the soil. An alternate method is to treat your afflicted plants with a soil-drenching systemic such as Orthene or Knoxout liquid

(Diazinon). As always, when working with a poisonous material, follow directions very carefully and test one or two plants before treating your whole collection.

Danger Sign/Symptom

Problem #4

Plants, blossoms, blossom stems covered with white powdery dust, blossoms dry up, plants look weak

Identification of Problem #4

Powdery mildew

Action to take for Problem #4

Increase air circulation in your growing area. Spray with Benomyl wettable powder or other fungicide in water periodically until problem disappears. Benomyl must be fresh (store in a cool place) and freshly mixed. Spraying with Lysol disinfectant spray will help, but expect blossom spots. Do not get too close when you spray with Lysol; spray the general area.

If you inspect your plants weekly and take action at once, when you spot any of the four danger signals described above, you will be able to manage most cases of adversity when they come your way.

Remember — prevention is important and easier to deal with than full-blown adversity! Do not spread problems by touching plants that are well or not infected immediately after handling problem plants. Decontaminate your hands and clothing before working outside the problem area.

Do not mix plants from one growing area with those from another unless it is necessary. Do not move sick plants around in search of "better growing

conditions." Be sure to isolate in-coming plants for up to 12 weeks. Do not bring outdoor plants, greenhouse plants, or cut flowers into areas where violets are grown.

Add a granule systemic to your soil when you repot as a precaution. And do look very closely at your plants. A small flashlight is a great help in examining plants.

If you are vigilant, and know the four danger signs and what to do in case of problems, you can keep your violets safe and healthy!

Violets International

The fourth annual California State Convention of the African Violet Councils of Southern and Northern California will be held in Solvang, October 20 - 24, 1993.

The African Violet Council of Southern California is hosting the event. Theme of the show is "Violets International."

Solvang is famous for its Danish bakeries, and unique Old World gift shops. Several wineries are in the area. An outdoor presentation of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" will be available.

Site of the event is the Royal Scandinavian Inn, 400 Alisal Road, Solvang. The public is invited at no charge to the show and sale, October 23, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, October 24, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Veteran growers and hybridizers will be on hand to answer questions.

For further information, call Chairperson Marcia Shaver at 805-495-0218.

Minutes

The African Violet Society of America, Inc. Annual Meeting April 24, 1993

The annual business meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., was called to order by Third Vice President, Esther Edwards Wells at 3:50 PM on April 24, 1993, in the Marietta Room of the Lancaster Host Golf Resort and Conference Center, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The invocation was given by DoDe Whitaker. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President, A. Charles Bollar took the chair. The Secretary declared the presence of a quorum. The standing rules of the meeting were adopted. The parliamentarian, Christine Sanders, PRP, was presented.

Sue Ramser, chairman of the committee to review the 1992 minutes, reported that the minutes had been reviewed and approved.

Resolutions Chairman, Elinor Skelton, read the courtesy resolution and moved that it be adopted. A copy is attached to these minutes. The resolution was adopted.

Mary Boland, chairman of the Bylaws Committee, moved the adoption of the proposed amendments of the Bylaws as published in the January-February issue of the AVM. Frank Tinari requested discussion of the amendment regarding the Boyce Edens Research Fund. Marlene Buck, chairman of the Boyce Edens Research Fund spoke in opposition of the proposed amendment. After much discussion, an amendment was made by Esther Wells to strike the second sentence out of the proposed amendment. This amendment was adopted. The amended bylaws proposal was rejected. The remainder of the proposed amendments were voted upon as a unit and were adopted.

As the new provision for amendment of the Bylaws was passed, Mary Boland, on behalf of the Bylaws Committee, submitted a new proposed amendment to the assembly for consideration. It had been approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors on Wednesday and would require a nine-tenths vote for adoption. She moved that Article VII, Sec. 1, h., be amended by striking out "Employ" and inserting "Oversee" and that Sec. 4, of the same article be amended by inserting "and editor" between "office manager" and "may be employed" so that the sections would then read: "h. Oversee an editor who shall be

responsible for the preparation and issuance of the AVM as authorized by the Board of Directors" and "An office manager and an editor may be employed by the Executive Committee with the terms of employment and salary determined by the Board of Directors." The motion was unanimously adopted.

Joyce Stork, Chairman of the 1992-93 Nominating Committee, presented the following nominations: President, Hortense Pittman; First Vice President, L. T. Ozio, Jr.; Second Vice President, Esther Edwards Wells; Third Vice President, Bill Foster; Secretary, Janet Riemer; Treasurer, Meredith Hall; Directors: Florence Naylor, Bev Promersberger, Diane Richardson, Emilie Savage and Ruth Warren.

As there were no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and the nominees were elected by voice vote. President A. Charles Bollar announced that the installation would take place at the banquet later in the evening.

Janice Sorensen, 1994 Convention Vice Chairman, invited all to attend the convention in Denver, Colorado, next year.

The winners of the Booster Fund Raffle and the Lancaster Promotion Raffle were drawn and announced.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Janet T. Riemer (Signature)

Janet T. Riemer, Secretary

Committee to Approve

Debbie Griffith (Signature)

Debbie Griffith

Lynn Lombard (Signature)

Lynn Lombard

Sue Ramser (Signature)

Sue Ramser

Minutes of the Board of Directors are available from the AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704. Any member may request a copy. Please include a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

AVSA Judges, Affiliates & Commercial Members - 1993

AVSA Judges, *Senior Judges, mMaster Judges, s Student Judges and +Teachers

AUSTRALIA

s Martin, Mrs. J., 105 Guildford Rd., Guildford, New South Wales 2161

BERMUDA

s Aitken, Mary Beth, 64 Harrington Sound Dr., Hamilton Parish CR 04

Foggo, Elaine S., P. O. Box DD 202, St. David's DDBX

s Smith, Andrea, P. O. Box HM2467, Hamilton 5

CANADA

Anderson, Darlene, #1801 190 Exbury Road, Downsview, Ontario M3M 1R8

Beaver, Ina, 2 Shamrock Dr., Dartmouth, NS B3A 2Y7

*Bell, Mrs. Jean, Codys RR 4, Queens County, NB E0E 1E0

*Belliveau, Eva, 10 Vista Dr., Moncton NB E1A 4L5

Biljan, Angele, 5 Oakridge Blvd., Nepean, Ontario K2G 2T6
Brooks, Susan A., 260 Douglas Ave., St. John Prov., NB E2K 1E6

*Brownlie, Doris M., 600 Silvercreek Blvd. #80, Mississauga, Ontario L5A 2B4

Cain, Francine, 45 Wright Dr., Moncton NB E1E 2H3
s Charbonneau, Nicole, 1061 47th Ave., Montreal H1A 2Z1
Corbett, Sharon J., 8206 162 St., Edmonton, Alberta T5R 2L7

Croteau, Denis, 3055 Ter Abenaquis, Longueuil, Quebec J4M 2B6

s Cunningham, Betty, 466 Falgarwood Drive, Oakville, Ontario L6H 1N3

Dawson, Marie, 36 High St., Hamilton, Ontario L8T 3Z3
Decelles, Therese, 298 De Jumonville, Boucherville J4B 1J9
s Dempsey, Michael, 5885 Cunard St. Apt. #705, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 1E3

s Douglas, F. M., 232 Southampton Dr. SW, Calgary, Alberta T2W 0V7

*Durand, Greta, #317-21 Lakeshore Rd., Pointe Claire, Quebec H9S 5N3

Elston, Eleanor, 4 Superior Ave., #18, Toronto, Ontario M8V 2M4

s Filman, B. Eileen, 663 Maple Ave., Burlington, Ontario L7S 1M7

Goretsky, Winston J., 3308 Barr Rd. NW, Calgary, Alberta T2L 1M8

Goulding, Mary S., 1096 Ridgewood Dr., Halifax, NS B3H 3Y4
s Hargseimer, Erika, 81 Woodpath Terr SW, Calgary, Alberta T2W 5Z6

*Harriman, R. F., 3475 Trenholme Ave., Montreal, Quebec H4B 1X8

s Hauptman, Al, 4 Valleyview Crescent, Edmonton, Alberta T5R 5S4

Heazle, Ralph, 70 16th St., Roxboro, Quebec H8Y 1P2

Henry, Irene, 349 Hyman Dr., Dollard Des Ormeaux, Quebec H9B 1L5

Herbatuk, Ann, 2400 Auvergne, Duvernay, Laval, Quebec H7E 1Z4

*Hughes, Mrs. Frank, 14 MacArthur Ave., Moncton, NB E1C 3L8

s Hussen, Keith, 1401 8315-105 St., Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4H4

Jarratt, Margaret V., 120 Oak Church Place SW, Calgary, Alberta T2V 4B5

Johnson, Louise, P. O. Box 107, Hudson Heights, Quebec JOP 1J0

Kosowan, Murna A., 57 Davidson St., Barrie, Ontario L4M 3S1

Laws, Charles E., 4331 Juneau, Pierrefonds, Quebec H9H 2C8

*Lewis, Hilda, 202 Spring Park Rd., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 3Y9

+*Lex, Sandra, 70 Enfield Ave., Toronto, Ontario M8W 1T9
s Lumley, Carol, 8448 64 Ave. NW, Calgary, Alberta T3B 4H3
McCabe, Robert, 769 Holt Cres., Ottawa, Ontario K1G 2Y5
s McDonald, Joanna, 4329 Riverbend Rd., Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5R9

McPhail, Rita, 6904 Bilbao Lane, Mississauga, Ontario L5N 1R2

s Miner, Mary, 5 Labelle Crescent, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 2C5

Mitchell, Mrs. L., 12911-82 St., Edmonton, Alberta T5E 2T3
*Moffett, Anne, 36 Moffett Ave., Sussex, New Brunswick E0E 1P1

s Moore, Nancy, P. O. Box 29, Aylesford, Nova Scotia, B0P 1C0

s Nagy, Betty, 424 Douglasbank Ct. SE, Calgary, Alberta T2Z 1X1

s Johnston-Newman, Nancy, 127 Spartan Crescent, Point-Claire, Quebec H9R 3R4

s O'Neill, Margaret, #83 Vault Rd., R. R. #2, Kingston, Nova Scotia B0P 1R0

s Owens, Hugh, 25 Medford St., Dart., N. S., B2Y 3C2
s Petrie, Peggy, 40 Mohawk Rd., East Apt #321, Hamilton, Ontario L9A 2G7

s Robertson, Luella, P. O. Box 52011, 311-16th Ave. NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 8K9

Robitaille, Nancy V., 2260 Valiquette, Chomedey Laval, Quebec H7M 3E8

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(Editor's Note: This is the current list of Affiliates in the AVSA office. If there are any corrections or questions, please contact Cindy Chatalein, AVSA Office Manager, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704.)

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Best Species and Best Trailer
AVSA Lancaster (PA) Convention 1993

S. rupicola

exhibited by Judith Smith
Laverock, Pennsylvania

My personal approach in growing African violets

NEIL LIPSON

29 S. NEW ARDMORE AVENUE
BROOMALL, PENNSYLVANIA 19008

Over the last seven years, I have refined my way of growing my violets, and have come up with a way that fits my personal environment.

I will probably change this even more in the future, but it works great for me now.

This approach may not work well for other people that have different growing conditions than myself, but this method works quite well for me.

I limit all my plants to one light stand with about three or four shelves.

I use the small pans to give four pans per shelf. This allows me to easily clean without disturbing the entire collection. Using four pans instead of one pan is also cheaper (those big fiberglass pans are a small fortune), but does not give you as easy a time to place plants.

I used two Grolux WS F40 lamps per fixture and give them about 13 hours a day.

I personally do not like using one Grolux and one coolwhite. Maximum growing will occur with two Grolux lamps. The color does put off some people. If you must, use the combination on the plants that you think look best with them, but expect less growth.

When I move the plants to another room for show, I will put them back, not necessarily in the same place from where I removed them. This "rotates"

the light conditions, and even things as far as lighting goes.

My soil is quite simple: 1 part vermiculite, 1 part peat moss and 1 part perlite. That never changes.

I put in about 3/4 inch of marble chips on the bottom of the pot. Being alkaline, they will SLOWLY adjust the peat moss as it becomes slowly more acidic.

I use plastic pots only, and use almost exclusively 4 inch pots all the time with their saucers.

I never let water from one plant drain into another or have a common pan. When I check the soil with my pH meter, I only let the probe stay there for a second or two. The pH will creep up, and confuse the whole process. I also ignore the pH of 6.5 rule and use the "how they look" rule. If a plant is growing fine, don't adjust the pH. Besides, as the soil becomes more acidic, which it tends to do over time, it's just about time to repot.

I always keep a one gallon jug of water around to allow it to adjust to room temperature and to release all the chlorine.

I never use rain water, for two reasons: all kinds of insects can be trapped in it, and the rain water is usually acidic, and because of acid rain, will become more acidic in the future. Also, there are chemicals in roofing materials that can affect plants.

If you must use rain water, filter it with filter paper available from chemical suppliers or some pharmacies.

Never use "softened" water, which is usually high in sodium.

When starting a plant, I use only sphagnum moss, usually wetting some from my package of dried sphagnum and remove all the grass and other material from it. The sphagnum moss will eventually decompose and become acidic. So, its life is limited, once wet. It can be stored for years, when dry. The wonderful thing about sphagnum is that while it is not sterile, it is anti-viral, and you will rarely get fungus, or other problems, such as damping off. It solves a multitude of mistakes and bad judgment. Just don't wet it to a soaking wet condition.

You will find that leaves and suckers will root about one third faster using pure sphagnum moss than potting soil. Also, your success rate will double.

I received this tip from my friend, Marian Meshkow, from the Springfield, PA club.

My water is done with 1/8 teaspoon of any kind of fertilizer per gallon.

I frequently rotate fertilizers, and never, never overfertilize. Why? First, it doesn't make the plant grow any faster. Second, you accelerate the rate of accumulation of fertilizer salts in the

soil and then must repot more often.

They even make soil salt meters.

If you have not repotted in a while, but the plant does not need repotting, then wash out the fertilizer salts with fresh water, and thoroughly drench and pour off the excess. Do this a few times to get as much of the salts out as possible.

You will only remove maybe 40% to 60% of the salts this way, but it is better than nothing and this will get you through until the next repotting.

Speaking of repotting, I have it down to a science.

To properly grow, you must have your repotting routine organized or you will put it off until too late.

Nobody likes to repot, but you can make it easier.

First, I have a small table to move near the violets. A card table is great.

Cover it with newspaper. Pull the plant and get a paring knife and gently scratch off the bark off the stem of the plant.

This is absolutely necessary as new roots may not grow easily through the bark. Cut off enough of the roots to allow the plant to fit in the pot. If you want to move up to the next larger size pot, you may do so, but frequently, it's fine to stay with the same size.

Use your one third rule of pot size to plant size.

Remove as much of the soil as possible, because of the fertilizer salts, and then use a spoon to refill the pot. This is a perfect time to check for insects, and treat appropriately (another article). Pull off as many leaves to "rejuvenate" the plant as you

wish. They will fill in quite quickly and the plant will be a little smaller.

Now, how about spraying? Well, my theory is that if you do not introduce new plants, and you keep the plants away from windows and other flowers brought in from the outside, you do not have to spray if your collection is clean.

When you buy new plants, buy them in groups and spray THEM, to especially kill thrips (see the March-April 1993 article), for about 28 days. I recommend buying your plants in groups as it makes the treatment process more efficient. Water with my special malathion solution also in the same article. I do not like pest strips because of some concerns from the EPA. Malathion and Orthene when used correctly are great. (Never use oil based Orthene products, but only the Whitmire and powder ones which work perfectly). Safer soaps are also extremely safe (Safer products), but have to be used longer and more diligently. Use yellow and blue sticky strips to indicate when you have insects, but treat them until all are dead. Don't half-treat or you will be spending the rest of your life playing catch-up. Also, don't be a kind-hearted person and nurse a sick plant to health for a friend. Grow them a new one, or you'll regret it. That is the way I first got thrips. Also, don't use the old method of putting water in a yellow container to rid yourself of thrips. It may get rid of 60% of them, but you will still have to spray sooner or later.

I stumbled onto one other thing. During the winter, I no-

ticed my house humidifier was not up to par in bringing up the house humidity. I purchased an additional cheap humidifier, and placed it in the room with the plants. This brought that room from 30% relative humidity to 50% and the plants immediately bloomed 30% more! You must add water every day, but the results for the winter were well worth the trouble.

Follow the instructions on cleaning it.

One last thought — because I use the soil mixture mentioned in this article, I never have drainage problems. Then, if I slightly over-water, there is no problem.

Because of this soil mix, I rarely lose a plant to crown rot. Try not to let them dry out, because then you can spend much time "nursing" them back to normal.

Many times, once they dry up, almost any normal watering will shock them and cause crown rot more likely than normal. You will have to go through a whole routine of gentle watering to get back to where you were. By the way, I use this soil mix only because of my environment. You may find your conditions may indicate a different mix, so feel free to experiment. Please don't introduce insects with your new mix though!

One thing I have discovered over the years, and in reading hundreds of back issues of the *AVM*, is that there is never a 100% right or wrong way to do things.

It is an art, and you should adapt the care of your plants to your particular environment, which is probably substantially different than anyone else's.



Rob's Smoke Rings

Rob's Mini-o-lets, Naples, New York

Rob's Iridium Queen





Sugar Dandy

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Dolgeville, New York

Cinnamon Ruffles



Some help with ...

Dish Gardens

EDNA ROURKE

99 Old Stratford Road
Shelton, Connecticut 06484-6129

A dish garden is a miniature garden (miniature landscape) but planted in a shallow dish-like container.

Creating such a garden is another way to display an African violet.

Dish gardens are arranged so that plants and the container together complete an artistic design.

As with any design, they should follow certain basic principles:

Plants and the container should blend into one pleasing picture.

All elements of the design interlock, overlap or come together.

All parts of the design should be in proportion.

There should be one focal point, or center of interest.

To have a formal balance, the focal point should be in the center with elements of equal weight on each side.

To have an informal balance, the focal point is off center and has heavier elements to balance it.

With a dynamic use of line, a contrast of color, texture and structural form, a design becomes fluid or rhythmic.

Like a terrarium, a dish garden should contain plants with similar culture requirements as well as one or more

blooming African violets.

Treated or cut plant material is not permitted. Accessories may be used but not predominate and should be placed inside the container not outside it.

A dish garden does not have a cover. Plant material may extend above the rim of the container, but must not hang over or touch the table.

More than one planting area is not permitted.

The show schedule should state how the dish garden is to be viewed. This information is a very necessary part in planning the landscape of the miniature garden.

Of prime importance, of course, is the container.

Many types of containers are suitable, but it should be of the proper size, shape, texture, and color. They can be of plastic, metal, glass, ceramic, clay, or even a wicker basket lined with plastic.

The container should be fairly shallow.

Containers can be of any shape — round, square, rectangle, triangle, ellipse, irregular. If possible, they should be at least three inches deep or deep enough to hold the necessary components and look well with the type of plants they will hold.

The container will add to the appearance of the finished miniature landscape.

Take care in choosing it. Remember it should not dominate.

A plain design of a subdued color brings out the beauty of the plants.

Once the container has been selected, plants will have to be chosen. They should be in harmony with each other as well as the container. The plants should compliment each other in color, form and growth habit. As stated before, they should be compatible and in scale with the container and each other.

Before you begin to plant the dish garden, work out a design before you do the actual planting.

You can set the plants (in their pots) into the container and shift them around.

Or, you can cut out a piece of poster board in the shape of the container, take the plants out of the pots and work out a landscape on the poster board.

Turn a curved branch or leaf so it falls against a straight up and down plant. Place rough foliage against smooth; lacy, feathery against solid; bright colors against dull; variegated against plain.

Try lifting out a plant to see if the effect is enhanced. To blend the plants with the container, let a creeping or hanging plant fall down over the edges.

This experimenting helps you avoid shifting plants later and gives you an idea of what your finished miniature garden will look like.

Some containers may have drainage holes, but if you have to provide drainage there are many materials available. Crushed stone, fish gravel, small pieces of lava rock or broken clay pottery or even recycled pieces of Styrofoam meat trays may be used.

Be sure all are thoroughly washed before use.

A soil separator such as a piece of screening or nylon stocking is placed over the drainage material to keep the soil from sifting down into it. A layer of horticultural charcoal should be placed over the separator. A thin layer of potting soil is placed over this. Now you are ready to recreate or transfer your miniature garden from either the poster board model or the plans worked out in the container.

As with a terrarium, rocks, pieces of wood or stone can be used to create hills and valleys.

The design should not be flat.

Once the design is completed, you may cover any exposed soil with either sheet moss or unobtrusively with fine, black fish gravel.

Give the dish garden a fine misting and water spartanly.

To maintain your dish garden, give it ample light,

prune plants and any ground cover to keep in scale and water often as the soil will dry out the same as any of your houseplants may do.

Please refer to my previous article in the *African Violet Magazine* (July/August 1993) for the type of soil and plants to use.

New York State AVS will hold its 40th convention/show

The New York State African Violet Society (NYAVS) proudly announces its 40th annual convention and show on October 14-16, 1993 at the Radisson Hotel in Utica, New York.

These two-and-a-half days promise to delight and interest all who come, with a beautiful show, excellent educational programs, a judging school, local excursions and even an attractive hotel and dining package.

Come join us as we celebrate "A Violet Mystery" through staging and designs based on well known mystery novels.

Our program speakers, however, will take the "mystery" out of many aspects of this enjoyable pastime.

Jill Fischer, winner of Best in Design with her terrarium at the AVSA Columbus convention will unravel the puzzle to constructing award-winning container gardens.

Carolyn Klein, named New York State Grower of the Year and winner of Second Best in Show with her miniature violet at the AVSA Lancaster convention will show us that there is really "no mystery" to growing prize-winning miniature and semiminature show plants.

Ralph Robinson, well-known hybridizer of African violet miniatures and semiminatures, known as Rob's Mini-ollets, will unearth the clues to hybridizing streptocarpus.

In addition, Gloria Rutmayer will unlock the "mystery" of how to judge African violets with a two-part judging school for anyone interested in learning more about about judging and/or wanting to earn or renew their certificate.

So, take the "mystery" out of what to do about African violets on October 14-16.

Write Marianne Gershon, Registration Chairperson at 231-11 57 Avenue, Bayside, NY 11364 for additional information and come help us unlock the clues to having a great weekend!

**Make plans now for the
1994 AVSA Convention/Show
in Denver, Colorado**



Ness' Satin Ruffles

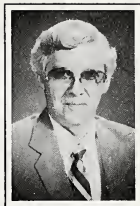
Midland Violets, White Bear Lake, Minnesota

Ness' Red Duchess



SHOWS & JUDGES

BILL FOSTER
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, Texas 75150



The committee meeting of the Shows & Judges Committee and the Judges' Breakfast at the convention in Lancaster were quite lively with discussions. I promised, in the May column, to share the discussions and any changes with you. Here goes! First, here are some changes to your HANDBOOK:

PAGE 14 - On the definition of Semidouble, delete the part of the last sentence that states "but will have multiple anthers." Also, on the definition for Single delete the last part of the definition that states "and one pair of anthers."

PAGE 35 - under PROCEDURES FOR AN AVSA STANDARD SHOW, please add to the second sentence on procedure 1 "for each set of collection rosettes requested."

PAGE 37 - Eliminate this part of the second paragraph under Show chairman: "The show chairman should first send a rough draft of the show schedule to the AVSA Affiliate Chairman for approval. This allows for correction before the affiliate has been out a printing expense for the schedule. When the show schedules have been finalized and printed." The second and last sentence of the paragraph will now read "The show chairman writes a letter of request, enclosing two copies of the show schedule and a \$5.00

application for each set of Collection rosettes, two months before the date of the show to the AVSA Affiliate Chairman. (This change is made at the request of the Affiliate Committee. After working with this method for several years it has been determined that more work and expense are incurred than when working with finalized schedules.)

PAGE 43 - at the bottom of the page under OPTIONAL RULES AND INFORMATION FOR SCHEDULES at the end of the first sentence, eliminate the words "or the sample schedule."

PAGE 50 - at the bottom of the page under AVSA COLLECTION AWARDS, correct item 6 to read: "Gold rosettes are awarded to the best collection in each collection class; purple rosettes to the second-best collection in each collection class."

PAGE 54 - under SPECIAL NOTES ON MINIATURE AND SEMIMINIATURE AFRICAN VIOLETS, eliminate these three sentences: "Tiny miniatures look best in two to two-and-a-quarter inch pots." "Miniatures look best in two-and-a-half inch pot." "Semiminiatures look best in a three inch squatty pot."

PAGE 55 - My records indicate that this correction has been

made, but some say it hasn't, so rather than refer back to an AVM issue, make this change if you haven't already done so: in the third sentence, under FORM, delete the words "up to." This should leave the last part of the sentence to read "deduct 11 more points if there is only one."

PAGE 57 - change the last sentence in the first paragraph, at the top of the page to read "Only one entry per exhibitor may be made in each class." (Many schedules now have separate classes for standards, minis, trailers, so this will allow one entry per member for each class used in the schedule.)

PAGE 82 - correct last sentence on page to read "NOTE; ONLY ONE COLLECTION FOR EACH COLLECTION CLASS MAY BE ENTERED BY AN AVSA MEMBER."

PAGE 93 - Delete page 87 as a reference for AVSA COLLECTION AWARD.

The changes that follow are to be made beginning January 1, 1994 or in some cases, when present supply is depleted.

A motion was made and adopted that, beginning with the 1994 AVSA Convention, the horticulture sections of the schedule for amateur and commercial will be revised. The schedule will no longer divide

the single and semidouble blossoms and the double blossoms into two different sections. The revised schedule will be broken down by color classes, regardless of blossom type. The sample schedule will be revised at a future date, perhaps not until a reprinting of the HANDBOOK is needed.

PAGE 47 - under AVSA SHOW AWARDS, please change the word "rosette" to "certificate" under AVSA Standard Show Award (SSA) and under AVSA Standard Show Achievement Award (SSAA). When the present supply is depleted, the green/blue rosettes will no longer be sent to the affiliates. (It is suggested that those affiliates still wishing to obtain these rosettes should order them directly from Acree Creations.)

Although the type of award issued by AVSA to AVSA Council, State, or Regional shows is not stated in the HANDBOOK (in the past it has been silver or crystal) upon availability a certificate and a silver medallion will be awarded.

PAGE 48 - Under AVSA Convention Show Awards - amateur: change item 2 to read: "AVSA Silver Award and a tri-color rosette for the best African violet plant (registered or unregistered) scoring the highest number of points." Also change item 5 to read "AVSA Silver Award and tri-color rosette for the best entry in Design Division."

Beginning with 1994, the AVSA STANDARD SHOW AWARD POINT SCORE SHEET (SSA) will be revised. Under part

3 (Staging) d. will be combined with c. and the total point value for this section will be reduced to 12. Under part 4 (Horticulture Division) the point value for b. will be reduced to 3 from 5. A new category (c) will be added ... Perfection of Exhibits and it will be worth 5 points, bringing the total point value of part 4 to 28. There is a reason for this change. We are trained, as judges, to look over the show before we start judging. If it is noted that the show as a whole is not quite up to par, we judge accordingly. Because of judging more leniently, a show that is somewhat inferior might score almost as high as a superior show. In the past, there has been no place to deduct points for the "perfection of exhibits" thus allowing these shows to earn the SSA or SSAA award when these awards may not have been merited. This new part, by having 5 points, would allow us to change the award. An example of awarding points would be: excellent 5, good 3 to 4, fair 1 to 3, lacking 0.

In the future, a critique sheet will be filled out by the SSA panel and given to the show chairman. This sheet will explain the score given for the show. This lets the club know where improvement is needed. This excellent suggestion was offered by the Future Directions Committee and has been tested by the Potomac Council.

Finally, some of the items discussed at the Judges' Breakfast ...

Q. Why was foil wrapping done away with? It has caused much havoc. Slip potting is okay if you have a lot of dollars to buy them, if you can find them. With foil

wrapping, the kind of pot doesn't matter. When it is ragged, it can be recycled. Foil makes it easier for the exhibitor.

A. Although most praise the slip potting, the HANDBOOK states that this method is to be used in Convention shows. An Affiliate may use foil wrapping if they choose to do so. (Affiliate Chairman, Bob Green was on hand and verified that he would accept either option.)

Q. Is it possible to have a Best of Show Standard and a Best of Show Mini?

A. You may state your schedule any way you please, but only one tri-color award is allowed.

Q. When judging for Best in Show, is it better to discuss the scores of the plants or write them down?

A. The panel judging for this award should feel free to discuss the scores. If absolutely necessary, a secret ballot can be taken.

Q. Is the Japanese style of growing trailers legal, according to our HANDBOOK? Trailers should trail or cascade over the pot. When the crowns are pinned down, it appears to be multiple plants in one pot.

A. According to our HANDBOOK, a trailer must have three crowns whether the crowns are pinned down or not. The crowns must come from one central stem. Crowns, whether pinned down or not, will eventually take root if in contact with the soil. It is sometimes difficult to tell if all crowns come from one stem, but usually "benefit of doubt" goes to the exhibitor. Japanese-style of growing trailers is legal.

Q. In a recent show, a container garden was not judged

because a painters brush was considered line material. The brush had been placed vertically. The judges said that if the brush had been placed horizontally, it could have been considered an accessory. The brush went with the theme. The HANDBOOK states that line is the visual path the eye follows in viewing the design. The path may be straight, curved, diagonal, or horizontal. A line may be composed of linear material, either organic or manufactured or it may be created through repetition, color, etc., in a linear direction. The question is how should this situation be handled?

A. The definition above describes "line" in an arrangement just fine! But remember, this is a CONTAINER GARDEN. The HANDBOOK tells us that in container gardens, the plantings should follow a landscape design rather than a line. The HANDBOOK further states that *plants* are used in container gardens and the plants must be *planted*. In this case, the paint brush was planted and a paint brush is not a plant.

9. Is it necessary to include everything the HANDBOOK suggests on the AVSA Information and Educational Table? In our area, it seems that if all things mentioned in the HANDBOOK are not present, points are deducted.

A. This is not a question that comes from a single area ... letters and phone calls come from every section of the country with this same question. It was never intended that all items listed be covered. The items listed are suggestions. The HANDBOOK states that some

aspect of growing African violets be displayed. As long as a single subject is covered and covered well, you have fulfilled the requirement. This display is mainly to attract the public. As long as information on AVSA (*African Violet Magazines*, culture folders, subscription forms, etc.) are present, you have fulfilled the AVSA Information requirement. Our main object of this portion, is to gain new AVSA members. A club should not be penalized for being more elaborate, but neither should they be penalized for a simple display that meets the requirements.

This column is getting very lengthy. We will discuss more next time.

Visiting Vivian's Violets ...

MARY ANN LOCKNAR
Shreveport, Louisiana

Vivian Kennedy, a member of the Top Choice African Violet Society, held a beginners' workshop this past summer for novice African violet growers. The class began with a chorus of ooohs and ahhs as the students surveyed the hundreds of beautiful African violets which were adorning Vivian's plant stands. We had never seen so many African violets in one place. (one student commented that she had died and gone to heaven!)

Vivian's discussion began with one of the most important elements of growing beautiful violets — proper lighting. She told us everything about lights — from the types of lights, to the amount of light needed, to the most reasonable places to buy lights.

Attention Teachers:

The teachers' guide "Teaching Tools" is now available and may be ordered from Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308. The postpaid cost is \$7.50.

Important Notice:

A reprint of *The Growers and Judges Handbook* has just been completed. If you order the HANDBOOK, you no longer have to order updated pages. All corrections and updates are in the 1993 HANDBOOK. The issue just printed will be listed as the *Growers and Judges Handbook* ('93). The price will remain \$9.95.

Next, we learned about fertilizers and tonics and were given several brands and recipes to try. Our lecture then took a turn for the worse, when we went from fertilizers to fertile pests.

The workshop concluded with hands-on propagating of leaves; separating and planting of small plants and removing suckers. We also learned the proper way to wick plants. We each were given the leaves and plants which we worked with to take home. Vivian ended our workshop with two very important questions. The first question was "Are there any more questions?" The second question was "Would you like a leaf of anything?" We appreciate the patience, generosity and knowledge of this beautiful violet which we call Vivian.



In Search of New Violets



DR. JEFF SMITH
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana 47306

In addition to the many colors available in African violets, there are a number of other traits such as petal number, flower shape, and color patterns that

are genetically controlled. These are usually separate traits from flower color and are inherited independently from flower color.

The result is a rich assortment of many flower combinations. Use the following table as a checklist for some of these "other" flower characteristics.

Dominant		Recessive
Violet or Pansy Shape	to	Star Shape
Double Flowers	to	Single Flowers
Semidouble Flowers	to	Single Flowers
Geneva Edge	to	Colored Edge
Fringed Edge	to	Plain Edge
Dogwood Dots	to	Solid Flowers
Mottled Flowers	to	Solid Flowers

Q: Any hopes of an "aqua" violet?

A: What a marvelous thought! I never would have thought to breed for that particular color.

I'd recommend trying to get "aqua" through a blending of blue and green colors, both of which are already available in African violets. Take your best light blue and cross this with the darkest full-colored green cultivar you can find. I'd suspect that most of your first generation (F1) will be blues, but you might get lucky and hit aqua right off. Take your best F1 and backcross to the green parent. Hopefully, some of these plants will be close to what you want.

Alternately, self-pollinate your best F1 or cross two good F1s together. You should get a wide

range of blue shades, possibly including the blue/green blend for aqua. Let me know what you get.

Q: I have the yellow violet, 'Majesty.' Is it legal for me to use it for hybridizing?

A: Yes it is. Although the plants of Nolan Blansit's breeding program with yellows have been sold, this does not cover a plant's use in hybridization. Any plant that is on the commercial market can be used for hybridization efforts. Patented plants can also be used for hybridization. Only their vegetative propagation by leaf cuttings, etc., is covered by the patent.

Q: I am about to try my hand at hybridizing. I have some seed pods that were set accidentally by thrips. Can I use these for practice in maturing seed pods

and germinating seed?

A: Why not? These seed pods should give you excellent practice as you start to plan your own crosses. You might even get lucky and get a very nice plant from this accidental seed. The only problem would be that you won't know for certain who the pollen parent was for the offspring. Only the seed parent or mother of your seed would be known for sure and this must be noted in your records for the cross.

Q: Why do some offspring started from the same plant produce variations in the 2nd and 3rd generations?

A: There doesn't seem to be a good single explanation for this. In some instances, the environment might be different now than it was originally and new

genes are expressed altering the growth of the plant. In some cases, the cells that started the new plant in the leaf cutting have mutated, changing the offspring from the parent. In other instances, the parent plant had different genetic cell lines mixed within the leaf. Depending on which cell line was used, the offspring can be different. Some traits, like Fantasy, are just unstable and don't always propagate true to type. For whatever reason, we should appreciate the standing rule that plants are propagated for three generations to make sure they are stable before the cultivar is released.

G: It seems as if what most people call "Blue" is actually lavender or purple. How can I get the True blues, such as you'll see in the Morning Glory or Forget-Me-Nots?

A: The search for a True blue in any species of plant goes back several decades. Recently, some work by Japanese scientists have suggested that the best True blues are made when a "super-molecule" forms from two different plant pigments and Magnesium ions. If the ratio of the two pigments, an anthocyanin and a flavone are changed, the super-molecule doesn't form properly and the color shifts to purple. Also, the acidity of the petal cells (not the soil) may change the color. Scientists hope that studying the biochemical pathways of all the pigments may enable them to breed for True blues. Perhaps African violet hybridizers can eventually benefit from their efforts.

My own research with flower color in African violets identified the anthocyanins, but did

not examine the secondary pigments, the flavones. It seems possible that the flavones may act as "bluing" agent and affect the blue or purple color of the flower. I have noticed, for example, the results from the flower pigment analysis of blues and purples are slightly different in the secondary pigments like flavones. However, I've never analyzed these differences in detail. I've also noticed that the brighter coral reds give a different secondary pigment result

than those that are more bluish-red in color. It seems likely that there is a difference in the "bluing" agent and this could be genetically manipulated.

For now, I'd suggest breeding together plants that you consider close to True blue and see what shades of blue you get in their offspring. I've always felt the light blues were closer to True blue, so you may wish to have a pale blue as one of your parents.

Good Luck!

Change: The material in the July/August In Search of column needed to be presented in table form. Please substitute this information:

Dominant		Recessive
Blue	to	All other flower colors
Red	to	Pink, White
Lavender	to	Red, Pink, White
All Colors	to	White
Non-coral Colors	to	Coral Colors
Coral Red	to	Coral Pink
Pale Shades	to	Dark Shades

Official First Day of Issue African Violet Stamp Covers \$2.00

Contact: AVSA Office
P. O. Box 3609
Beaumont, Texas 77704
409-839-4725

Change of Address for Editor of AVM:

Jane Birge, Editor AVM
P. O. Box 1238
Nederland, Texas 77627

Please change your records.

Different methods of watering

SHARON E. JOHNSON
6657 E. Shadow Lake Drive
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

WICK WATERING

Wick watering has become very popular among African violet growers. The plants receive a *constant* supply of fertilized water.

Soil Mix: The soil mix MUST BE VERY LIGHT. This means you must have at least 50% vermiculite and/or perlite in your soil mix. If you do not have the 50%, your roots will rot.

The Wick: The wick MUST BE A SYNTHETIC MATERIAL. You can use 3-ply knitting yarn, a nylon cord, available in a hardware store, or nylon hose cut in strips. Cut your strips long enough so it will reach from the top of the soil to the bottom of the container.

Placing the Wick: The wick can be threaded through the pot and then place the plant and soil carefully in the pot. Another way is to put the plant and soil in the pot and then thread the wick through the hole in the bottom of the pot to the top, using a darning needle or any thin pointed object.

Reverse Osmosis: The easiest method to get your wick and soil moist is to soak the plant with the wick in place. This will start your wick absorbing the water. If the wick is not wet, IT WILL NOT SOAK UP WATER.

The Container: Any container that will not rust, and

has a cover will work. The containers available through our commercial members are exceptionally nice because they have two holes, one for the wick, and one for filling with fertilized water.

Problems: The most common problem is that the plant is not soaking up the water. Resoak your plant and try again. If the plant is "root bound," it will stop absorbing water. The second most common problem is the plant is too wet. In that case, remove the wick and use a thinner wick (1/4" is usually sufficient). Algae can be controlled using Physan 20.

MAT WATERING

Mat watering means that you place your plants on a damp mat and the plant absorbs the moisture and fertilizer. The mats MUST BE A SYNTHETIC MATERIAL. Matting material is available through our commercial members, as well as supply houses. You can also buy a cheap blanket and cut it to the size you need. Mat watering works very well for small plants.

Problems: The biggest problem is that the mat dries out very quickly. Another problem is if the shelf is not level, some of the plants may not get enough water. Be sure to check the plants on both ends

of the container. If you have any type of insect problem, they will spread quickly with mat watering. Algae can be controlled using Physan 20.

TOP/BOTTOM WATERING

This is the most common method of watering. You simply water the plants either from the top or the bottom when they are somewhat dry. Watering from the bottom takes several hours for the plant to absorb the water to the top of the pot. I feel this is the best method because you know exactly when you watered and what fertilizer was used.

Problems: It is very easy to overwater plants which can cause root rot. Also, if you are going to be gone for an extended period of time, the plants will suffer.

Looking for a book

Margaret Jarratt of Canada is looking for a copy of the Elbert's book, "Miracle Houseplants - African Violets and other Easy to Grow Gesneriads." She needs a copy for her club's library. Her address is: M. V. Jarratt, 120 Oakchurch Pl. SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2V 4B5.

New Guidelines for Advertising

Commercial Membership • Non-Commercial • Classified

DIANE RICHARDSON
9207 Ravenwood Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21237

How do you read your copy of the *AVM*? If you are like most people, you check out the color photos, go to the back and read the advertisements, then start at the beginning and go through the articles. At the 1993 Lancaster Convention, the Board of Directors made many sweeping changes in policy for advertising in the *African Violet Magazine*, making advertising easier for our commercial membership, and also making it possible for a great many others to let us know about their new products.

VISA or MasterCard

AVSA will now accept VISA or MasterCard for payment of ads that appear in the *AVM*. Want to save some money? Prepay for six consecutive ads (one full year) either by check or charge, and take 10% off the total bill. Note that most rates have been rounded off to ease bookkeeping for both the advertiser and the AVSA staff.

Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant related to qualify. This new ruling is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Existing AVSA members, as well as non-members, may take advantage of this new change. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than that of our commercial membership. Unless they are already a member of AVSA, they would not receive a copy of the *AVM*, nor would they be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1" ad Commercial Member \$30.00

1" ad Non-commercial \$33.00

One year (six issues) as non-commercial will pay an additional \$18.00 for ads.

Full page Black & White

Commercial Member \$345.00

Full page Black & White

Non-Commercial \$379.50

One year (six issues) a non-commercial will pay an additional \$207.00 for ads.

Four-Color Advertising

The *AVM* is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes:

One Half Page Commercial Member \$475.00

Non-Commercial \$522.50

Full Page Commercial Member \$595.00

Non-Commercial \$654.50

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

Classified Advertising

- Looking for a home for your old copies of the *AVM*?
- Can't find a particular variety of plant?
- Moving and don't have room for that third plant stand?
- Your club is selling violet key rings as a fundraiser?
- Small commercial grower: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the *AVM*?
- Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, you can't afford those big ads every month so once or twice a year will have to do?

The Classified Advertising Section may be used by commercial and individual members, clubs, groups and non-members. AVSA individual members advertising in this section will not be considered "commercial" advertisers.

Rates for Classified Advertising

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Jan/Feb issue	Oct. 15	July/Aug issue	Apr 15
Mar/Apr issue	Dec 15	Sept/Oct	June 15
May/June	Feb 15	Nov/Dec	Aug 15

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9207 Ravenwood Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21237
Phone: 410-686-4667
after 6 p.m. ET

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120 Brinkwood Road
Brookeville, Maryland 20833
Phone: 301-774-2476

African Violet MAGAZINE

Advertising Rates, Mechanicals & Deadlines

Mechanicals & Rates: One Column (3-5/16") Two Column (6-3/4") Black & White

AVSA Commercial

Non-Commercial

Member Rates

Member Rates

Rate

per Column Inch

Total

1"	30.00	30.00	33.00
2"	25.00	50.00	55.00
3"	23.33	70.00	77.00
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Check made payable to The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. (AVSA) must accompany ad copy. Agency commission and cash discount not allowed. Inquiries for color ads — contact Advertising Manager. Need not be a commercial member to advertise.

Membership - \$25.00 per year - USA. Check made payable to AVSA. Membership check should be separate from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

Save old friends from extinction

Dear Fellow Growers,

The "yellow African violet" has caused a stir at the last three conventions that will long be remembered. I, like everyone else, would have liked it to be a little more yellow but you have to start somewhere. In the next few years we will see big leaps in the progress of the "yellow violet." People in Lancaster were even talking of a yellow flower on a variegated trailing African violet. Now that's real progress!

I wonder if the "yellow" violet will go like the first pink or the first fantasy or even that lovely old plant, 'Lady Geneva,' with its white edge. What does the future hold for the "yellow" African violet? Only time will tell and time only leads to forgetfulness.

At the Lancaster convention, the AVSA Future Directions Committee, chaired by Joyce Stork, met and had a lively discussion on all things before that committee. We talked well into the night and one of the results was to try to save the "Oldies but Goodies." Do you grow one of those lovely old-timers? I know, I do. It was decided to ask everyone growing those old plants to send a list of those old ones to me (Barb Elkin, address below) and with your permission, I will attempt to keep records of who has what. We plan on publishing this list in the *African Violet Magazine (AVM)* once or twice a year or as needed to keep you informed. Please, no requests before the list is published.

You know that the species and the Original Ten, introduced so long ago, have made a real comeback. Well, friends and growers, we sincerely hope that the "Oldies but Goodies" will be around for future growers, too. What a shame it would be to lose these wonderful examples of our "violet progress."

Now to the fun part! After the list is published in the *AVM* and you find that you would like to grow

one of these plants, all you have to do is send a stamped and addressed envelope to me (Barb Elkin) and I will get you in touch with the grower of that plant. You are to make your arrangements with the grower, not us (money, postage, etc.). Our ultimate goal is to have each and every grower in the United States or even the world (think big), grow at least one of the older plants, before, like the dinosaurs, they become extinct.

There are two of us working on this project to save our ROOTS. Let me hear from you, and let us know your thoughts. We believe that AVSA should have a living "archives" of plants as well as all that written information.

Sincerely,

Barbara Elkin, 2855 Gayle Lane, Auburn, CA 95602 and

Marilyn Goldstein, 1001 Diplomat Parkway
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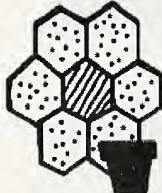
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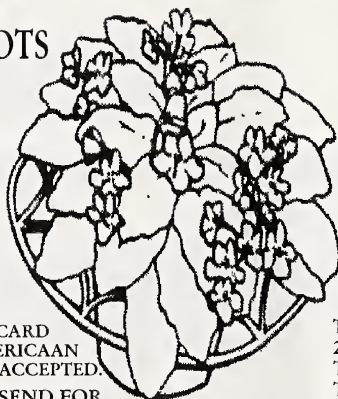
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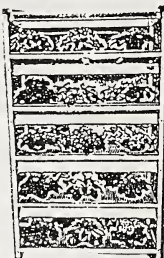
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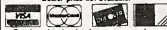
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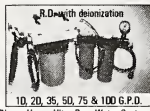
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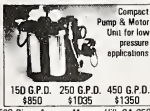
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2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	1.95	3.60	6.60	30.00
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.20	2.75	4.80	9.00	41.50
3 1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40	52.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.75	3.85	7.20	13.50	59.40
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.70	5.90	11.40	20.75	94.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.00	27.70	125.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.80	8.60	16.60	30.50	132.00

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1-1/4"	Terracotta	3.00	6.25	11.50	20.00
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3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40
4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
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6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00

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8"	Gr. or Wt.	1.30	6.30	12.00	28.80	55.00
10"	Gr. or Wt.	1.80	8.70	16.80	40.00	78.00

PERMANENT TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.75	4.25	8.00	25	50
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.25	7.25	13.75		
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.35	7.50	13.80		
22" x 11" x 2-3/4"	3.99	23.00	45.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS - No Holes

25-1/2" x 13-1/2" x 3-3/16" Gr. or Wt.	3.25	18.50	35.00	67.00	
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Mini (6") Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	17.00	30.50
9" Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	18.25	35.00
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1 gal. (for large growers) \$34.00 each.

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\$3.85 each - 6/18.00 - 12/32.00 - 24/60.00

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Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$3.50 min.

Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax

Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code

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8 oz. BOUNTY,
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Mixer Dispenser Bottle
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32 oz. - \$9.95
1 gal. - 29.95

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1 oz. - \$2.89
2 oz. - \$3.98
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2-1/4" - 4"

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20-20-20	General Purpose	4 oz. 16 oz. 1.25 3.00
15-30-15	House Plant Special	1.25 3.00
Dolomite Limestone		2 lbs./\$1.75
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse	20 oz. 40 oz. 1.75 3.00
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2-1/4	Wh/Gr	RS or SQ	1.30	2.20	4.65	8.50
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3	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.80	3.30	7.50	13.50
3-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT or SQ	2.10	3.75	8.50	15.50
4	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.50	4.50	10.00	18.00
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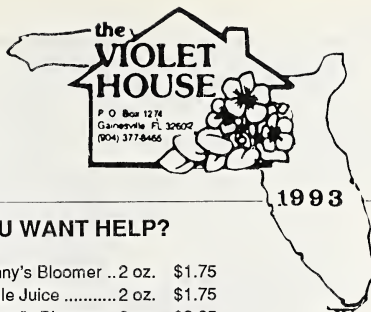
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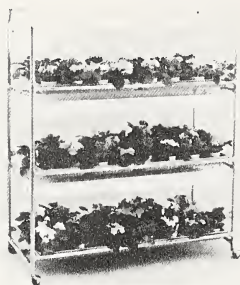
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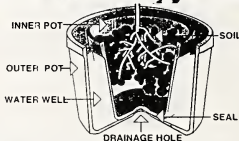
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African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

November • December 1993

Volume 46

Number 6



Strictly Business — Your Business

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Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704 - phone 409-839-4725. Individual - \$15, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$17; Commercial USA - \$25; Commercial International - \$27; Life - \$200. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a New York, USA Bank. See Membership Application on page 1.

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AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards, how to organize a chapter or membership questions, write Bob Green, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Cindy Chatelain, Office Manager, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704, 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST.

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COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact J. R. Pittman, 12406 Alexandria, San Antonio, TX 78233.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Esther Edwards Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068 by Sept. 1.

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AVM EDITOR: Jane Birge, P. O. Box 1238, Nederland, Texas 77627

ARTICLES by Members & Columnists: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENT NOTICES: Send to Editor.

"Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists & Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

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QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets," The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Second class postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a nonprofit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$15.00 per year which is included in membership dues. Copyright 1993 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

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African Violet MAGAZINE

Vol. 46 No. 6

November • December 1993

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

ON THE COVER — NESS' VIKING FROST, a new Jean Ness hybrid from the third best display table at the 1993 AVSA Convention/Show in Lancaster, PA. Exhibited by Jean Ness, Midland Violets, White Bear Lake, Minnesota

Photo by John Herr Photography, Lancaster, PA

Table of Contents

REGULAR FEATURES

- 3. The President's Desk - Hortense Pittman
- 5. Coming Events
- 7. Beginner's Column - Kent & Joyce Stork
- 11. AVSA Commercials - Hortense's African Violets - An Update - David Buttram
- 13. Registration Report - Iris Keating
- 16. Show Talk - Darryl Hoover
- 21. Question Box - Jim Smith
- 24. AVSA Office Report - Cindy Chatelain
- 26. mini-tidbits - Florence Naylor
- 34. In Search of New Violets - Jeff Smith
- 35. Building Maintenance - Anne Jantzen
- 38. A Family Portrait - Georgene Albrecht
- 39. Boyce Edens Research - Marlene Buck
- 39. AVSA Booster Fund - Ruth Warren
- PERTAINING TO VIOLETS**
- 23. Some good advice - Joshua McKinney and Lois Wiseman
- 28. African violets ... love them or hate them - Dewey Baucum
- 29. Memoirs of a Novice Exhibitor - Gary Gordon
- 30. True Confessions - Peggy Payne

- 31. Russian Seedlings - Diane Richardson
- 32. Texas-Style Pots for micro-minis - Walther Ott
- 41. 1993 Best Varieties - Floyd Lawson
- 47. Violet Favorites - Sylvia Farnum
- 50. Use of Protoplast Regeneration - Traud Winkelmann

CONVENTION

- 20. Award honors Pittmans

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Supplement to Master Variety List

- 6. Mrs. Willets becomes Master Judge - Bill Foster
- 15. Statement of Ownership
- 48. Attn: AVSA Affiliates and Commercials
- 51. AVM Advertising
- MISCELLANEOUS**
- 4. In Memory
- 6. Poet's Corner - Douglas Root
- 43. Gift Giving - Anne Tinari
- 44. Catching the public's attention - Diane Richardson
- 49. Orange County tries a "taste"

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African Violet MAGAZINE

The Official Publication
of The African Violet Society
of America, Inc.
a nonprofit organization



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Index of Advertisers ...

A

- 57. Acree Creations
- 56. African Violets & More
- 62. African Violets by Grace
- 62. American Gloxinia
and Gesneriad Society
- 62. American Orchid Society
- 58. AV Enterprises Press
- 58. AVS of Canada

B

- 59. Big Sky Violets
- 62. Bluebird Greenhouses

C

- 55. Cape Cod Violeyry
- 57. Cliff Dweller
- 57. Country Road Violets
- 58. The Cryptanthus Society

D

- 55. Discus Haven

F

- 60. Florals of Fredericks

G

- 56. Gesneriad Correspondence
- 58. Green Thumb
- 56. Greentrees

H

- Inside Back Cover
- HousePlant Magazine
- 63. Hydro-Farm

I

- 59. Indoor Gardening Supplies

J

- 62. JF Industries

L

- 58. Les Violettes Natalia

O

- 25. Optimara

P

- 60. Pat's Pets
- 59. Patches and Pots
- 57. Plant Collectibles

R

- 57. Rob's Mini-o-lets
- 55. RollHouse

S

- 60. Schultz

T

- 60. Teas Nursery
- 63. Travis' Violets
- Back Cover
- Tinari Greenhouses

V

- 63. Verilux
- 56. Violet Creations
- 61. The Violet Express
- 64. The Violet House
- 58. Violets by Appointment
- 56. The Violet Showcase
- 62. Volkmann Brothers

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From The President's Desk



Now that the heat of summer is over, do yourself and your violets a favor. Freshen up your old plants by grooming and repotting them. Start some new ones and you will be richly rewarded for your efforts through the coming winter months. Don't forget to grow some beautiful entries for the Denver show in May, 1994.

By the time this reaches you, we will all be using the official African violet postage stamp that appeared on the cover of the July/August 1993 AVM. I've had many wonderful comments on the stamp. Be sure and ask for it the next time you are buying a book of stamps. I look forward to receiving my mail with this beautiful stamp in the right hand corner.

Please check the Strictly Business-Your Business page inside the cover of your AVM. Direct your communications to the proper person for best services. This is your society; therefore, your suggestions and ideas will be welcome.

I appreciate receiving the informative newsletters and magazines sent to me by many of our affiliates. It is interesting to read the many activities our affiliates are participating in. May I suggest you also send your publications to our AVM editor, Jane Birge.

Let me remind you to support AVSA Boyce Edens Research Fund. This year's grants were awarded to the University of Scranton for research by Dr. Michael Sulzinski; Academy of Ball State University for research by Dr. Jeff Smith; and Texas A&M University to Dr. Charles Cole. This fund makes these important research programs possible. Thanks to the generosity of affiliate societies and individuals who support AVSA Boyce Edens Research Fund.

November brings our traditional day of Thanksgiving. We, in America, have countless things to be thankful for. Let us give special thanks for this great society. Let us say thanks to each officer, director and committee member. Let us be thankful for each affiliate member, every commercial member and each international member.

In closing, I would like to share this poem with you as it expresses my sentiments at this special time of year:

May this year's Christmas be the best
That you have ever had,
With everything that you could want
To make you really glad.
With presents bright and beautiful
Around the Christmas tree,
And being able to hold hands
With all your friends and family.

*And may the New Year bring to you
The greatest of success,
With good health, prosperity
And every happiness.
But, most important, may the One Above
Bestow His grace on you.
To keep you safe and guard the ones
Who mean so much to you
And may He give to all the world
The peace for which we pray.*

Warmest greetings,

Hortense Pittman

Hortense Pittman
AVSA President

In Memory

JULIE ADAMS - On June 29, 1992, the violet world lost one of its greatest supporters in a tragic accident. Julie Adams was a very kind, generous, and special woman who will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Julie was a Life member of AVSA, a Master judge, a charter member of Naugatonic AVS and Nutmeg State AVS, and had served as president in both clubs. She had been show chairman for Naugatonic AVS and was its current Recording Secretary and AVSA Representative. Julie had also been Schedule Chairman and Classification Design Division Chairman for the 1974 AVSA Convention in Hartford and was on the Design Schedule Committee and had served as Design Entry Chairman for the 1990 Convention in Boston. She has been a contributing columnist for "The Nutmegger" and frequent writer for the AVM. Julie was a tireless and generous worker in the name of African violets. She was never too busy to lend a hand and you knew if she said she would do something, it would be done. She has spoken to many clubs and organizations far and wide over the years and has always donated all speaker fees to the Boyce Edens Fund. She worked long and hard for her commu-

nity and church as well. She founded the Old Ripton Garden Club and was its current president. She served on both the Conservation and Wetland commissions of her community and was recently honored for her work in beautifying the city by the chamber of commerce. Julie won awards too numerous to mention, year after year, for her magnificent African violets and outstanding design work. In 1988, she was the recipient of The Mary Feng Sherley Memorial Award for Horticultural Excellence, given by the Connecticut Garden Club. She also received Nutmeg State's Distinguished Service Award. I have been privileged to call her friend and I will miss her.

*Edna N. Rourke, President
Nutmeg State AVS
Naugatonic AVS*

The Capital City African Violet Society, Sacramento, California, has lost two outstanding members. **JAMES ABRAHAM CARPENTER** (Jim to all), of Orangevale, California, died July 23, 1993, after an extended illness. He was 78. Jim, along with his wife, Della, were active members of Capital City AVS since 1975. He served as presi-

dent and show chairman and on many committees. He was ready to lend a helping hand to anyone and serve where needed. Jim was a member of the Northern California Council of African violet societies. Jim served his country in World War II in the 9th Battalion, U.S. Army, 15th, Mechanized Calvary, known as "Hell on Wheels." This unit was a daring and outstanding reconnaissance squadron. After retirement from the California Department of Corrections, Jim divided his time between African violets and arranging escorted tours for a local travel agency. **SARA (SALLY) B. HERTEL**, of Elk Grove, California, died on August 13, 1993, after a long battle with cancer, at the age of 80. Sally, along with her husband Ray, had been members of Capital City AVS for over 30 years. She served as president and show chairman, and chaired many committees. She was a Master Judge and an African violet judge teacher. Sally was also a member of the Northern California Council of African violet societies and the AVSA Judges Council of North-

ern California. Sally and Ray were avid AVSA convention attendees. They were personal friends and stood by me in my physical time of need, always taking me under their wing. True friends indeed. This couple was also active in the American Camellia Society of Sacramento. These faithful members, Jim and Sally, loved by all who knew them, will be greatly missed.

*Barbara Elkin, Secretary
Capital City AVS*

NORMA "JANE" RIEGAL - Jane Riegald died June 5, 1993. She was a long-time member of the Gypsy African Violet Club of Richmond, Indiana. She is survived by her husband, Vaughn, one daughter, three sons, one sister, one brother and nine grandchildren. She was valued by all who knew her. "The Lord must have needed help with heaven's African violets or he wouldn't have taken you from us."

*Nanc E. Stigler, President
Gypsy African Violet Club*

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 5 & 6 GEORGIA— The AVC of Greater Atlanta's 17th annual show/sale, "Celebrate Violets - 101 Years and Counting," Galleria Speciality Mall, 10 - 6, both days. Contact: Kathy Spissman, 404-913-5551.

NOVEMBER 6 NORTH CAROLINA— Green Thumb AVS show/sale, Tarrytown Mall, Rt. 301 & 64, Rocky Mount. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

NOVEMBER 6 & 7 NEW JERSEY— TriState AV Council's 31st show/sale, "Violets in Animation," Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 53 E. Hanover Ave., Morristown. Nov. 6, 1:30 - 5 p.m.; Nov. 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Jan Murasko, Dale Jasaitis, co-chairs. Information: 908-821-8641.

NOVEMBER 5 - 7 MINNESOTA— Minnesota AVS show/sale, "Violets in Fairyland," Har Mar Mall, MN (Snelling Ave. just south of Highway 36). Nov. 5, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Nov. 6, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Nov.

7, noon - 5 p.m. Public invited, free admission. For information: Donna Tobin, show chair, 612-646-1775.

NOVEMBER 12 & 13 WISCONSIN— The African Violet Fanciers, Inc. sale/display, Beloit Mall, Rt. 51, North Beloit. For information: Florise Hogan, 815-397-2000.

NOVEMBER 12 & 13 FLORIDA— Suncoast AVS display/sale, "Fall Cornucopia of Violets," Parish Hall of St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 3747 34th St. S, St. Petersburg. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission. For information: 813-866-3468.

NOVEMBER 13 & 14 LOUISIANA— Louisiana Council of AV Judges and Growers (LACO) show/sale, "Violet Cuisine," Plantation Inn, 10330 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge. Nov. 13, 2 - 5 p.m.; Nov. 14, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free admission, public invited. For information: Gail Borne, show chair, 504-888-9407.

NOVEMBER 13 & 14 MISSOURI

- Mid America AVS' 14th annual show, "A Salute to Violet Pioneers," Loose Park Garden Center, 5100 Pennsylvania, Kansas City, MO. 10 - 4 both days. Max Wooderson, show chair. For information: Pat Richards, 913-829-4258.

NOVEMBER 19 & 20 FLORIDA— AVS of Jacksonville's show/sale, Roosevelt Mall, 4495 Roosevelt Blvd. Show open mall hours. Public invited. For information: Chris Hall, show chair, 725-1566 or co-chair Barbara Murdock, 388-9003.

JANUARY 28 - 30 MISSOURI— Fourth annual St. Louis Flower Show, "Gardens & Gifts Galore," sponsored by the Junior League of St. Louis, Cervantes at America's Center, 801 Convention Plaza, St. Louis. \$6 adults or \$5 advance; \$2 children 6 - 12, 5 and under free. For more information: 314-997-3407.

FEBRUARY 12 & 13 MISSOURI— The AVC of Greater Kansas City

show/sale, "Violets and More in '94," Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania, Kansas City, MO. Both days, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information: Carol Allinson Smith, 816-353-0590, show chair. Lydia Walker, president.

FEBRUARY 25 - 27 FLORIDA - Tampa AVS' 19th annual show/sale, "It's Raining Violets," Eastlake Square Mall, 5701 East Hillsborough Ave., Tampa. Feb. 25 & 26, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Feb. 27, noon - 5 p.m. For information: Walter Spangler, chair, 6285 31st Avenue North, St. Petersburg 33710 or phone 813-345-8295.

MARCH 5 & 6 CALIFORNIA - San Diego Daytime AVS show/sale, "Violets Honor Our Presidents," Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. March 5, 1 - 5 p.m.; March 6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission. Beverly Decker, 619-442-7484 and Betty Roberson, 619-726-6772, cochairs.

JUDGING SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER 11 & 12 - The Mid-Atlantic AVS will be sponsoring a judging school as part of its third annual convention in Richmond. Edward Bradford of Woodhaven, NY, will be the teacher. For information: Wayne Coley, convention chair, 804-323-1734.

JANUARY and FEBRUARY 1994 - CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA - The AVS of Calgary announces AVSA Judging schools. A gesneriad talk and workshop will also be offered. The teacher for both events will be Betty Tapping of Toronto. For more information please call: 403-238-2863.

Did you know?

Holly, Colorado is the town with the lowest elevation in the state? — A mere 3,397 feet!

SEE YOU IN COLORADO!

Mrs. Floretta Willets becomes Master Judge

Congratulations to Mrs. Floretta Willets, 811 Sunset Drive, Kingston, TN 37763.

In October 1992, Flo became a Master Judge at the age of 93 years young. Our apologies because the "M" to signify that she had attained the status of Master Judge was inadvertently omitted in the September 1993 update of the Judges List.

Flo is still as active as many folks half her age and still helps with the judging at the AVSA

conventions.

Also, add to the September Judges List:

Peg Phythyon, 852 Haggerty Rd., Wetumpka, AL 36092. Peg is a senior judge and a teacher.

Janice Carpenter, 1321 Whitehall Dr., Plano, TX 75023. Janice was listed as a student judge but is now an advanced judge.

Bill Foster
Shows and Judges
Chairman AVSA

Poet's Corner — — — —

a little old woman
with cracked finger
lovingly caressed her African violet

with a twisted smile
and loving eyes
she talked low and sweet to her violets, "a-grow!"

hair as white as new fallen snow,
a white pearl violet smiled up at her.
there were her babies, all ninety you see.

her babies were her life
as soft and healthy as life could be

how do I know what it is I say
that beautiful old woman with crooked finger and smile

she's my mom.

Douglas O. Root
Victory Mills, NY

Looking for 'Karen Mary'

Karen Mary Palmer of Irmo, South Carolina, is looking for a start of the plant — "Karen Mary." She is also trying to locate "Optimara's South Caro-

lina."

If anyone can help her, please contact her at: 112 Rushing Wind Drive, Irmo, South Carolina 29063.

BEGINNERS COLUMN

KENT & JOYCE STORK
2501 East 23rd Avenue
Fremont, Nebraska 68025



What you always wanted to know about INSECTICIDES — but were afraid to ask!

Insecticides really should strike fear into the hearts of wise growers. When using them, one must always proceed with great caution. But sometimes it becomes necessary to use these chemicals if African violets are to be saved from an onslaught of bugs. When handled properly, the benefits do outweigh the dangers.

We think that it is as important for growers to understand what the chemicals are, and how they work, as it is to know which bug to shoot with which spray. It is also important to know how to read the label so you can comply with the way the manufacturer intended for his product to be used. It is not as simple as "take two aspirin and go to bed," but it will make you a happier and healthier grower.

We often try to add humor to this column, but you will notice that this subject is taken more seriously. We urge you to be serious about the use of pesticides too.

RECOGNIZING YOUR ENEMY

Not every type of insecticide works on every moving creature found on violets. The pests vary in the numbers of legs, the presence of wings, and in the chosen method of eating. For example, mites (tiny spiders with eight legs) are affected by particular chemicals (chlorinated hydrocarbons) which have little effect on six-legged bugs. Some mild and relatively safe-to-use chemicals won't kill the most damaging pests. If it won't kill the intended victim, don't expose yourself to the chemical!

Short of a college entomology class, how does the average grower decide what to use? First of all, it is important to get an accurate diagnosis of what pest has invaded. Relatively few pests are real problems for African violets, so asking advice from experienced violet growers will usually result in a correctly identified insect.

Past issues of the *African Violet* magazine provide excellent information on insects.

Each January AVM publishes an index of articles from the previous year. Articles on "Pests" will be listed, as well as articles by Dr. Charles Cole, AVSA's best resource on bugs. Most of the pests have been well discussed in the last several years.

Another source for identifying the insect is your local agriculture office. The staff there concentrates on the major agricultural crops in your area, so they may not immediately recognize your violet pests. For example, the cyclamen mite is virtually invisible to all but the strongest microscopes and is usually diagnosed by the visual appearance of the African violet plant. If your agent isn't familiar with violets, he may not recognize the source of the problem. If you feel that you are not getting a good answer, you may request that they take your plant to a higher authority (often an agricultural university). If all else fails, Dr. Cole at Texas A&M has been most gracious in assisting.

CHOOSING YOUR WEAPON

Once the pest has been accurately identified, you can choose the correct chemical by reading the pesticide container. There are two items to find. First, the container must list the name of the pest you wish to control. Secondly, the container must list African violets. Many different kinds of growers use these chemicals! A chemical intended for use in the garden or an orchard is not appropriate for indoor use. The chemical companies take great care to test each pesticide formula and to qualify it for a specific use. Because of lawsuits, they are notably careful about what is allowed for indoor use.

The job of finding the right product can be made considerably easier by ordering your violet pesticides from advertisers in this magazine. They list and sell the most commonly used pesticides as soon as it is legal to do so, and these small-business people will offer expert advice to guarantee your satisfaction.

You've heard it before, but listen this time. Follow the directions! Read the label!

If you are going to kill the pest, you must use the strength that is recommended and use it as often as recommended. Weaker concentrations will not give you good control and can even result in stronger succeeding generations of bugs who can tolerate the pesticide at regular strength. Using a stronger rate than is recommended, seldom increases the effectiveness; it just puts the plant and you at a greater risk. Don't throw marshmallows (too weak) and don't use the atomic bomb (too

strong). Follow the directions (just right).

THE PESTICIDE RECIPE

The insecticides all contain an "active ingredient" which is the part of the mixture that will do the work. This active ingredient is listed on the label of any pesticide package. We will focus more on specific active ingredients a little later.

Along with the active ingredient there may be several other ingredients. Sometimes the active ingredient may be already water-soluble and have only a carrier added. (The carrier consists of something inert like powdered rock or clay.) In other instances, the active ingredient may need a solvent added which dissolves the active ingredient and/or an emulsifier which allows it to mix with water.

In most of the recipes, you determine the concentration by adding the appropriate amount of water. This is where growers can make serious trouble for themselves! If the directions use terms like parts-per-million, and you do not know how to do that, choose a different product. Those directions are deliberately written so that only experienced professionals will use them. Most chemicals recommended for home use will use common measuring units that will be clear to the most novice grower.

If it is in a consumer-friendly aerosol can, no mixing is necessary. But insecticides like this contain a propellant to force the chemical into the air. This spray is always quite cold, especially to temperature-sensitive plants like African violets. Always allow about 18 inches of space which will allow the spray to

warm before it reaches the plant surface.

Systemic pesticides are a special group. Several systemics come in the form of granules in which the active ingredient coats or has been absorbed by the carrier (often clay or ground corn cobs) and is used dry. The active ingredient is a type which can be absorbed by the plant and distributed through at least a part of the plant structure making it toxic to feeding insects. Not all plant parts are able to contain the active ingredient, however, which can limit its effectiveness. For example, there are no available systemics that will move through the tiny veins of a blossom stem to where blossom thrips are usually found.

HOW DOES THE ACTIVE INGREDIENT WORK?

The two most common types of synthetic insecticides used on African violets are the organophosphates and the chlorinated hydrocarbons. Try to get comfortable with these two names, because understanding them will maybe save your life.

For our consideration, the organophosphates are the most common type of active ingredient. Some included here are diazinon, malathion, and orthene.

The organophosphates all affect the nervous system by inhibiting the enzyme cholinesterase which allows acetylcholine to accumulate. Whoa! If that seems like too many big words, think of it this way: They are nerve poisons. When the nerves stop sending their messages, the body ceases to function. Please note: we

didn't specify just the insect's body; it often works the same way on people.

The chlorinated hydrocarbons commonly used on violets are limited to the active ingredient kelthane. It focuses on the central nervous system and is fortunately quite effective in being absorbed by mites, but unfortunately is also effectively absorbed by people. It is not an effective treatment for the six-legged insects.

There are also a few botanical insecticides. These are not synthetic; they are derived from plants. Pyrethrum is one of the more popular choices right now. It also affects the nervous system with a fast-acting effect, but without much strength.

Finally there are also the inorganic pesticides which are made from minerals. Diatomaceous earth is an inorganic pesticide which cuts or pierces the insect body resulting in dehydration. Its effectiveness is a highly debatable topic. Some think it solves many insect problems with few human health hazards. Others have reportedly been less than successful in achieving insect control with its use.

HOW DO THE NERVE POISONS GET INTO THE SYSTEM?

Insecticides are generally taken in either by digestion or by absorption through the skin. The pest may eat plant parts which are covered by or contain the poison, or be poisoned when the spray contacts their body.

This all seems a little gory. Do we really have to think so much about how the poor little bugs die? Yes, we do, since it closely

resembles how nerve poison can also enter the human system.

When plants are sprayed with a synthetic organic insecticide or treated with a systemic granular form of the insecticide, the plant becomes poisonous to eat. This isn't usually a problem with African violets, unless you have children or pets who are inclined to exotic eating habits.

Similarly, the insecticide in the air or on the leaf surface can also be absorbed through the mouth, lungs, and readily through the skin. It is critical to avoid contacting the chemical directly if the person involved does not wish to fall victim to nerve poison. It is also wise to avoid touching the plant surfaces for a period of time following application.

HUMAN SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS OF A TOXIC REACTION

If a person receives a toxic dose of the organophosphates, he may experience the following symptoms: headache, giddiness, nervousness, blurred vision, weakness, nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and discomfort in the chest. Outward signs that someone has incurred poisoning include: sweating, myosis (contracted pupils), tearing, salivation, excessive respiratory tract secretions, vomiting, cyanosis (blue coloration), uncontrollable twitches, convulsions, coma, loss of reflexes, and loss of sphincter control.

Repeated small doses seem to have a cumulative effect increasing risk with each additional dose. Large doses can be fatal. The toxicity information on the label indicates the amount of active ingredient

needed to kill most of the pests. The higher the toxicity rating, the lower the dose needed to work on humans.

The rate of absorption through the skin is increased at higher temperatures and is especially quick in the presence of dermatitis. If you have a skin condition, you must exert extreme care in using these chemicals.

An antidote is available, but the victim must get to a doctor or hospital quickly. Take the pesticide container along.

Chlorinated hydrocarbons are stored in the fat cells and remain present in the human body for a long period of time. Symptoms of toxic exposure include nausea and diarrhea. The exact mechanism of the action is not fully understood, but some liver and kidney damage is indicated.

SOME SPECIFIC CHEMICALS

Diazinon — An organophosphate used to control many violet pests, including aphids, mites, fungus gnats, scale, mealybugs, and thrips. It is not a systemic — it will not move through the plant. It is taken into the body through skin, lungs, and mouth. It is rated as a moderately toxic product. It comes in several formulations.

Knox-Out 2 FM — A micro-encapsulated form of diazinon with less odor and longer residual activity, so fewer applications are needed. It is available in concentrate or in a pressurized spray.

Malathion — An organo-

phosphate to control aphids, mealybugs, and thrips. It may be less toxic to mammals, but can be phytotoxic to some plants including ferns. Some people find it smells bad, and others may be sensitive to it. It is of low-order toxicity. It comes in many formulations.

Orthene — An organophosphate to control aphids, mites, mealybugs, and especially thrips. It has a systemic action which moves it into plant leaves enhancing its control. It is of low-order toxicity but damaging to eye tissue. It is available as a concentrate, a soluble powder, or as a pressurized spray.

Kelthane — A chlorinated hydrocarbon effective on both cyclamen and broad mites. It will not control eggs, so it is necessary to make three applications at 5 to 7 day intervals. It is listed as moderately toxic and available as a concentrate.

No-Pest Strips — Contain DDVP (Vapona), an organophosphate, which is effective on a broad range of pests including thrips. Effectiveness is dependent on the concentration of DDVP in air over a specified period of time. It is formulated in a slow-release plastic resin. DDVP is listed as moderately toxic.

PRECAUTIONS, PRECAUTIONS, PRECAUTIONS

Now that you understand how the insecticides work, it may make more sense that you must always mix insecticides in well-ventilated areas.

You must protect yourself from touching the chemical or anything with which the chemical has come in contact. That means that you need to wear gloves and other protective clothing when you use an insecticide. Take care to wash yourself, your gloves, and your clothing promptly and thoroughly following the application. Keep it off your skin!

Avoid spraying around food areas, and keep pets and children away from treated plants. Don't eat, drink, or smoke while using pesticides.

Never reuse measuring tools or spray containers for anything except pesticide use.

Never store pesticides in anything except the original container, and do not share pesticides in improvised containers. It is unlawful to do so.

Mix up small amounts, and once pesticides are diluted, use immediately. They often lose effectiveness quickly after dilution anyway. Do not dispose of them in the sewage system. Do not pour them out on the soil in a concentrated area. If possible, only mix what can be used immediately.

Always read the label closely for specific precautions.

IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Insecticides are wonderful tools in the successful growing of African violets. It is certainly more pleasant to have beautiful, healthy, blooming plants than it is to have violets besieged with an insect invasion. When it becomes necessary to use insecticides, you are taking on the responsibility of using them within the framework of the law. That, of course, is for

your own good.

We hope that your violets never become hosts to bugs. But we also hope that when an insect comes visiting, and brings his relatives, you will be able to control them or eradicate them safely.

Remember that good sanitation, isolation of new additions to your plant collection, and a watchful eye are the most desirable methods for preventing major outbreaks. When the critters come, and they will, you will be armed with the proper insecticides to win the war.

(Many thanks to Dr. Charles Cole of Texas A&M who provided numerous resources from his files, for this article.)



J. C. MUNK of Houston is shown with one of his Apache hybrids from his Best AVSA Standard Collection at a recent Spring Branch AVC show. The theme of the show was "African Violets Say It With Music."

AVSA Commercials

... a closer look



DAVID BUTTRAM

P. O. Box 193

Independence, MO 64051

Hortense's African Violets • San Antonio, Texas

— An Update —

I am often asked which of the almost 30 articles on

AVSA Commercial members I have reported on was the



AVSA President and Commercial Member Hortense Pittman of San Antonio, Texas, holding several of her "honeys"

most enjoyable to write. The answer is not easy, for each interview has had its unique and special meaning. However, my article on Hortense and Ray Pittman of San Antonio, Texas (see the July, 1986 *African Violet* magazine), is one of my favorites.

It is time to revisit Hortense's African Violets for an update on their personal and commercial progress. And some interesting changes have occurred.

Arriving during a home remodeling project, the Pittmans were warm and gracious. Ray, "Sundown" to his many African violet friends, did admit to some sore muscles which readily respond to Ben Gay and a hot tub.

Since my first interview some seven years ago, Hortense has moved up the chairs of AVSA and is now the president.

Elected and installed in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in April of 1993, she leads this society with grace and dignity. Congratulations, Hortense.

Although he did not say so, I am sure that Ray's tenure as president of Dixie African

Violet Society, provided him with experience and knowledge which has been passed on to Hortense.

What a tandem they are.

Changes in the African violet business have also been made.

First, is the scaling back of retail sales, especially mail order. Growing new varieties for retail sales and the subsequent packing and shipping is very labor intensive. It involves constant attention to the plants, moving of heavy trays, lifting packages and those unseen details such as postal regulations, quarantines and the collection and reporting of sales taxes — not an easy job.

The Pittmans love hybridizing African violets and they have been very successful at their endeavors.

With purpose and specific goals in mind, they make their crosses.

Ray likes to do the tedious



Hortense's main "honey" — the infamous J. R. (alias Ray, a/k/a "Sundown") Pittman

job of separating and potting the tiny seedlings.

Together they evaluate each seedling diligently to ensure only the best of their efforts becomes a Hortense's Honey — a term coined by former AVM editor, Grace Foote.

Less space is now required to grow sales plants and many plant stands have been removed.

On the enclosed back porch where several plant stands used to sit, is now a hot tub. Ray removed the cover to show me the heated bubbling water. I had just driven several hundred miles and stayed in a hotel for a few nights. The hot tub was more than inviting, but an eight-hour trip awaited me yet that afternoon.

The move to cease retail sales has provided more space and time for Hortense and Ray to hybridize.

Hortense was anxious to show me the newest of the new — the work with the yellow African violets.

Entering the plant room near the front of the house was a sight to thrill any lover of beauty and nature. Bright, vivid colors from nature's palette covered the plant benches.

Hortense pointed out her special project with justified pride — varying shades of yellow in different amounts over a variety of foliage. The instant favorite of mine was a light bloom with a distinct yellow center on pointed Tommie Lou foliage.

All of the yellows the Pittmans are working with



Hortense doing what she loves — working on her beautiful African violets.

now are floriferous and very long lasting — a wonderful combination.

With the decision to cease their retail mail order business, the Pittmans decided to sell their new varieties by wholesale to AVSA Commercial Members who in turn will make them available to the public. Watch for the 1994 ads and catalogs early next year.

I closed my interview by taking a few pictures and exchanging goodbyes. I then climbed into my car, aimed it east, set the auto-pilot (I wish) and headed into the dusk. Once on the interstate I paused to thank God for his blessings of color, beauty, life and friends.

Did you know?

The view from Pikes Peak in Colorado inspired the words to "America the Beautiful?"

SEE YOU IN COLORADO!

REGISTRATION REPORT



IRIS KEATING
149 LORETTO COURT
CLAREMONT, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

REGISTRATIONS

Ralph Robinson - Naples, NY

***ROB'S BLUEBERRY PATCHES** (7879) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble chimera light blue sticktite pansy/white stripe. Crown variegated medium green and white, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S BOONDOGGLE** (7880) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark red sticktite star/wide white ruffled edge. Dark black-green, wavy, serrated/ red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S BO PEEP** (7881) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble medium pink sticktite pansy/light green edge. Variegated medium-dark green and white, quilted. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S CLOUD NINE** (7882) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light pink sticktite frilled pansy/copper tips, shading. Crown variegated dark green and tan, pointed, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S DIPSY DOODLE** (7883) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light rose sticktite pansy/darker tips. Dark green, pebbled, glossy, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S DOOHICKEY** (7884) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble medium mauve sticktite pansy. Olive green, plain. **Miniature**

***ROB'S FLIM FLAM** (7885) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark red sticktite pansy/wide white frilled edge. Dark green, quilted, wavy, serrated/ red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S FUDDY DUDDY** (7886) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark mauve-purple sticktite pansy. Dark green, quilted. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S HEAT WAVE** (7887) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light pink sticktite pansy/wide red frosted edge. Medium-dark green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S HOPSCOTCH** (7888) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark pink sticktite pansy/dark blue fantasy, wide dark red-purple frilled edge, some green tipped top petals. Medium-dark green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S HOT TAMALE** (7889) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Double dark red sticktite ruffled pansy. Dark green, pebbled, glossy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S HUMMIN' BIRD** (7890) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Double lavender-pink sticktite pansy/cream-yellow eye. Medium-dark green, quilted, hairy, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S MAD CAT** (7891) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Double pink sticktite pansy/blue fantasy, dark red-purple ruffled edge. Dark green, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S MISS PRISS** (7892) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark salmon-pink sticktite pansy. Variegated dark green and white, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S MONKEYSHINES** (7893) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Single chimera red-purple pansy/white stripe, blue fantasy. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S MOUNTAIN ASH** (7894) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble bright blue sticktite pansy/bright pink fantasy. Variegated dark green, white and pink, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S RED ROOSTER** (7895) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson)

- son) Semidouble dark smoky red sticktite star. Dark green, pointed, quilted, hairy, serrated. **Semiminature**
- ***ROB'S STROBE LIGHT** (7896) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Single chimera medium blue pansy/white stripe. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminature**
- ***ROB'S TAFFY PULL** (7897) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white sticktite pansy/red edge. Medium green, quilted, hairy. **Semiminature**
- ***ROB'S TODDLE DOO** (7898) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Double white sticktite pansy/bright blue eye, shading. Medium green, quilted, glossy. **Semiminature**
- ***ROB'S TWINKLE PINK** (7899) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark pink sticktite pansy. Dark green, pointed, glossy/red back. **Miniature**
- ***ROB'S WHATSIT** (7900) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white sticktite pansy/dark red edge. Medium green, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Semiminature**
- ***ROB'S WHIPPOORWILL** (7901) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light pink sticktite pansy/darker shaded tips, edge. Crown variegated medium green and white, pointed, glossy. **Semiminature**
- ***ROB'S WHODUNIT** (7902) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white sticktite pansy/bright red eye, variable thin red edge. Medium green, quilted, glossy. **Semiminature**
- ***ROB'S ZERO GRAVITY** (7903) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble medium blue sticktite pansy/pink fantasy. Variegated dark green and white, pointed. **Miniature**

J. C. Munk - Houston, TX

- ***RITA HILTON** (7904) 6/5/93 (J. Munk) Semidouble raspberry frilled pansy/darker shaded edge. Variegated medium green, white and pink, pointed/red back. **Standard**

Jeannette Pursley - Austin, TX

- ***NANCY'S JOY** (7905) 6/11/93 (J. Pursley) Single chimera pink star/lavender stripe. Medium green, plain. **Semiminature**

Frank Tinari - Huntingdon Valley, PA

- ***BLUE EARTH** (7906) 6/26/93 (F. Tinari) Semidouble blue-purple/white sparkle edge. Medium green, ovate/red back. **Standard**

- ***LAVENDER SUNRISE** (7907) 6/26/93 (F. Tinari) Semidouble lavender two-tone/darker top petals. Medium green, ovate, serrated. **Standard**

- ***MIDNIGHT SONATA** (7908) 6/26/93 (F. Tinari) Double dark purple wavy. Dark green, cupped, heart-shaped/red back. **Standard**

- ***PINK PHANTOM** (7909) 6/26/93 (F. Tinari) Semidouble medium pink/darker center, sparkle overlay. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

- ***PLUM DE CREME** (7910) 6/26/93 (F. Tinari) Double purple-plum/white sparkle edge. Medium green, serrated. **Standard**

- ***TOREADOR** (7911) 6/26/93 (F. Tinari) Semidouble violet-mauve/white-rayed top petals, variable edge. Medium green, heart-shaped. **Standard**

Reinhold Holtkamp, Sr. - Nashville, TN

- ***OPTIMARA® BERLIN** (7912) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Semidouble blue star/white frilled edge. Medium green, ovate, glossy, hairy, wavy, serrated. **Large**

- ***OPTIMARA® HELSINKI** (7913) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Semidouble-double pink two-tone. Dark green, ovate, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Large**

- ***OPTIMARA® LITTLE AZTEC** (7914) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Semidouble purple-red. Dark green, ovate, hairy, serrated/red back. **Semiminature**

- ***OPTIMARA® LITTLE AZURITE** (7915) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Single purple-blue/thin white edge. Medium green, ovate, glossy, hairy, serrated/red back. **Miniature**

- ***OPTIMARA® LITTLE CHEYENNE** (7916) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Semidouble blue and white/blue center. Light green, ovate, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Semiminature**

- ***OPTIMARA® LITTLE COMANCHE** (7917) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Single purple-red. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, serrated/red back. **Semiminature**

- ***OPTIMARA® LITTLE SHOSHONE** (7918) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Single light pink/darker center. Dark green, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated/red back. **Semiminature**

- ***OPTIMARA® LITTLE TURQUOISE** (7919) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Semidouble violet-blue. Medium green, ovate, glossy, hairy. **Miniature**

- ***OPTIMARA® ROME** (7920) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Single burgundy. Medium green, ovate, glossy,

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE November • December 1993 15

SHOW TALK

DARRYL HOOVER

1812 W. Southgate • Fullerton, CA 92633

To ensure each exhibitor and exhibit receives the recognition they deserve, please either print or type your results on the reporting form. Once you've completed the Show Talk report, please double check your spelling. I can check hybrids through the MVL; however, individual names require me to contact the particular affiliates show chair. This may delay the publishing of your show results.

Please include a self-addressed stamped post card with your report. This will allow me to acknowledge receipt of your report and allows me to inquire with the affiliate should the need arise.

AVS OF ROCHESTER, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, Robert Croteau, The Alps; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle



BIG WINNER at a recent Sun-downers AVS (LA) show was Mrs. Billie (Lura) Weathers. She won Best AVSA Collection, Best variegated plant, Best edged plant and runner-up for sweepstakes.

Fiddle, Rob's Silver Spook, Ness' Red Flash; Best in Show: Party Print; Best Mini: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Semi: Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Douglas Burdick**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Plum Praise, Definitely Darryl; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Fayanne Wagman**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia goetzeana*, **Irwin Wagman**. Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Barbara Festenstein**.

CINCINNATI AVS, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Granger's Wonderland, Optimara New Mexico, **Helen Chambers**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, Carousel Lady, Lady Blue; Best in Show: Carousel Lady, **Pat Hancock**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Opal, Rob's Angelle, Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Mini: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Sharon Holtzman**. Best Semi: Hand Made, **Paula Duncan**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia tonantha*, **David Heath**. Best Design, **Gayle Lehman**.

MEMPHIS AVS, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Little Katherine, Irish Flirt; Best Mini: Everdina; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Teen Trail, **Katherine Steele**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Iona Pair**. Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Ann Shirley**. Best Semi: Rob's Pink Satin, **Peggy Adamson**. Best Standard: Nortex's Snowkist Haven, **Lynn Leary**.

ILLINOIS AVS, INC. - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Painted Sunrise, Acadian Odyssey; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Pre-

clous Pink, Little Jayhawk; 2nd Best in Show: Painted Sunrise; Best Mini: Baby Jay; Best Semi: Definitely Darryl; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Jean Willey**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cupid Lavender, Fredette's Moonflower, Coral Kiss, **Evalyn Barbarik**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Cirelda, **Anna Jean Landgren**. Best Design, **Ed Johnson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Copper Cat, Rob's Moonbeam, Precious Pink, **Judith Wegner**.

ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN AVC, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Windy Day, Ness' Viking Maiden, Rhapsodie Rose, **Mary Ann Switzer**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Satin, Snuggles Little Dreamer, Hart's Snow White, **Fran Russom**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bogeysman, Definitely Darryl, Ness' Tutti Frutti; Best in Show: Hot Tomato; Best Mini: Ness' Angel Babe; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Ardath Miller**. Best Semi: Bogeysman, **Janet Graves**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Virginia Hamilton**. Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Helen Blanton**.

MONCTONIAN AVS, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tina, Dazzler, Big Daddy, **Bonnie Murray**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Jana, Ming Blue, Percy Burton Earle, **Jeanie Bell**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Apache, Party Lace, Rob's Pink Satin; Best in Show: Kiwi Dazzler; Best Mini: Minnie Mine; Best Semi: Rob's Pink Satin; Best Trailer: Lambs' Ears; Best Design: Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Eva Belliveau**.

CROSSTOWN AV CLUB OF MADISON, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Toodle-oo, Kiwi Dazzle, Ness' Sizzlin' Pink; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pinky Winky, Rob's Silver Spook, Rob's What Not; Best in Show/Best Semi: Rob's Pinky Winky; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Ruth Olsen**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Otoo, Garnet Elf, Snowflake Hill, **Bonnie Henell**. Best Design, **Estelle Hrabak**. Best Trailer: Happy Trails, **Darleen Schillinglaw**.

AVS OF NORTH JERSEY, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Paisley Print, Ness' Bangle Blue Shades of Autumn; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sunspot, Ness' Mini Sota, Ness' Sno Fun; Best in Show: Ness' Bangle Blue; Best Mini: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Semi: Ness' Twinkle Pink; Best Trailer: Orchid Trail; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Bob Kurzynski**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Pink Blueberry, Red Ferrari, **Becky Johnson**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Carl Petersen**. Best Design, **Emilia Rykowski**.

BALTIMORE AVC, MD - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Woodland Sprite, Coral Kiss, Optimara Molokai; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Gary Gordon**. Best in Show: Prince of Dixie; Best Semi: Definitely Darryl, **Marie Burns**. Best Mini: Everdina, **Shirley Huffman**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Margaret Harcourt**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia diffilis*; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Betty Lages**.

LAST FRONTIER AVS, AK - Winners: Best in Show: Dathyn; Best Mini: Petite Jewel; Best Semi: Irish Flirt; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Wayne Burton**. Best Design, **Becky Cornelius**.

ALEXANDRIA AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Molokai, Ming Blue, Raspberry Frost; Best in Show: Optimara Molokai; 2nd Best in Show: Heritage Frolic, **Rita Tolbert**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Zest for Love, Big Mama, Sil-

ver Wings, **Pat Vanderlick**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Susie'; Best Trailer: Perk Up; Best Mini: Rob's Starberry, **Flora Nugent**. Best Design, **Rita Tolbert**.

FIRST HALIFAX AVS, CANADA - Winners: Best in Show: Pamela, **Ina Beaver**. Best Mini: Midnite Elf; Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Audrey Moir**. Best Semi: Pat Champagne, **Hugh Owens**. Best Trailer: Happy Trails, **Helen Beaver**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Mary Christie**. Best Design, **Lois Wiseman**.

SOCIETE DES SAINTPAULIADE MONTREAL, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Mary Craig, Decelles' Triomphe, **Clement Perreault**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Phantom Flash, Prince of Dixie, Bud's Melanie; Best in Show: Desir, **Michel Marcil**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Nearly Perfect, Rob's What Not; Best Mini: Von's Busy Bea, **Micheline Frechette**. Best Semi: Little Pro, **Claudette Lemay**. Best Trailer: Ramblin' Angel, **Carole Champoux**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita stensis*, **Robert Mayer**. Best Design, **Anne Herbatuk**.

NEW YORK CITY AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Happy Cricket, Fredette's Moonflower, Harbor Blue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Gray Ghost, Rob's Ice Maiden, Rob's Match Point; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Adeara; Best Mini: Little Lady; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Joseph Palagonia**. Best Semi: Ness' Red Flash; Best Design, **Paula McDonald**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Light Prince,' **Bob Baker**.

CANTON AVS, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Bangle Blue, Ode to Beauty, Ness' Midnight Fantasy; Best in Show: Ness' Bangle Blue; Best Semi: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Pearl Snyder**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Darling Blue Trail, Milky Way Trail, Pride's Pink Trail; Best Trailer: Milky

Way Trail; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Cathy Black**.

LATE BLOOMER/GREEN THUMB AVC, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, White Madonna, Nortex's Snowkist Haven; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Kitten, Rob's Silver Spook, Rob's Bedazzled; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Cynde Lere**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Winnie Woo, Rob's Doodlebug, Snuggles; Best in Show/Best Semi: Snuggles Little Dreamer; Best Mini: Mickey Mouse; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Janice Kutzeb**. Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose, **Jan Shepherdson**.

JEFFERSON AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Grandma's Zach, Vince's Choice; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Magic Blue, Definitely Darryl; Best in Show/Best Semi: Definitely Darryl; Best Mini: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Trailer: Honey Bun Trail; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Gail Borne**. 2nd Best AVSA Stan-



CAROLYN ANDERSON and JULIE MARTIN are shown holding their prize-winning entries *O. Trinidad* and an arrangement. Behind the two winners is a quilt that was made by the club, The Tucson African Violet Society.

dard Collection: Chiffon Print, Makin' Romance, Georgia Lover, **Barbara Rome**. Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Genelle Armstrong**.

AVS OF CALGARY, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: The King, Suncoast Sentimental, Sapphire Halo; Best Trailer: Lil Run Around, **Maida Den Oudsten**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ruffled Joy, Ness' Tutti Frutti, Snuggles Little Dreamer; Best in Show: Optimara Trinidad, **Mary Miner**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Tutti Frutti, Sugar Doll, Mini Papa, **Winston Goretsky**. Best Mini: Snuggles Tiny Baby, **Don Silver**. Best Semi: Kid Karla; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Faye Denesik**. Best Design, **Cindy Salamanowicz**.

STAMPEDE CITY AVS, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Becky, Anna Kreeck, Wrangler's Green Pastures; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita pteropoda*, **Margaret Gratto**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Symphonette, Little Bountiful, Litta, **Erika Hargesheimer**. Best in Show: Tomahawk; Best Mini: Rob's Firebrand; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Ingrid Nelson**. Best Semi: Irish Angel, **Sue Wonnacott**. Best Trailer: Breezy Blue, **Joan Farraway**. Best Design, **Margaret Jarratt**.

PARMATOWN AVC, OH - Win-

ners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Feathers, Tiger, Optimara Molokai; Best in Show: Apache Feathers, **Martha Bell**. Best Mini: Rob's White Out; Best Semi: Pat Champagne; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Design, **Marlan Tiedale**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*, **Carol Shepard**.

AVS OF CHARLOTTE, NC - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Paisley Print, Splendiferous, Grandma's Zach; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Diamond, Optimara Little Pearl, Joanne; Best in Show: Suncoast Paisley Print; Best Mini: Mickey Mouse; Best Semi: Little Pro; Best Trailer: Angel Tears Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Anita Allerton**. Best Design, **Elizabeth Ashley**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Blue Nymph,' **Betty Garland**.

AVS OF SOUTH BAY, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: High Tide, Grape Splash, Malden; Best in Show: Grape Splash, **Dorothy Gawienowski**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ray's Delight, Blue Brad, Nortex's Snowkist Haven; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Ray Britton**. Best Semi: Teen Charming, **Kay Ingalls**. Best Trailer: Sunset Trail; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Irene Thomas**.

AVS OF UTAH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Rose, Optimara Louisiana, Rhapsodie Vanessa; Best Trailer: Honey Bun Trail; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Edythe Crandall**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Dolled Up, Rob's Blue Light; Best in Show/Best Semi: Precious Pink; Best Mini: Mickey Mouse, **Bessann Swanson**. Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Eva Goodfellow**.

AVSC CONVENTION SHOW, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection (Amateur): Picotee Petticoat, Raspberry Crisp, Party Print; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection (Amateur): Top-

most, Ness' Sno Fun, Topsy; Best Semi: Rob's Gray Ghost, **Betty Tapping**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection (Amateur): Desir, Jean, Picasso; 2nd Best in Show: Frosted Whisper; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Essue,' **Beverly Williams**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection (Amateur): Timid Teen, Optimara Little Amethyst, Optimara Little Crystal, **Irene Henry**. Best in Show: Desir, **Michel Marcil**. 3rd Best in Show: Picasso; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Beverly Britt**. Best Design, **Paul Kroll**. Best Trailer: Pink Mint, **Gerry & Tony Hulleman**. Best Mini: Optimara Little Crystal, **Bob McCabe**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Eleanor Elston**. Best AVSA Standard Collection (Commercial): Frosted Whisper, Christmas Candy-O, Silver Seas, **Bud Tapping**. Best Commercial Plant: Rob's Gal Vikki, **Rob's Mini-o-lets**.

Mid-South AVS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Midnight Magic, Raspberry Rose, Coral Kiss, **Evelyn Kelly**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Happy Cricket, Optimara Molokai, Sir Charles, **Edith Abraham**. Best in Show: Happy Cricket, **Judy Ellis**. Best Mini: Optimara Blue Topaz; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Martha Page**. Best Semi: Snuggles Rising Star, **Laura Hester**. Best Trailer: Snowman, **Dale Mennard**. Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Ginger Ilardi**.

First Goldsboro AVS, NC - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bourbon Mist, Night Rider, Red Lion; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jubilant Spirit, Magic Blue, Little Pro; Best Mini: Mickey Mouse; Best Trailer: Fairy Fountains; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Frances Deans**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Northwoods Spring Fancy, Irish Flirt, Magic Blue, **Lorena Bunn**. Best in Show: Dusty Memory, **Mae Bowen**. Best Semi: Magic Blue, **Ethel Twiford**.

AVS of Greater New York - Winners: Best AVSA Standard



ANNE STEWART won Best in Show with *S. Pendula Kizare* at a recent San Diego Daytime African Violet Society show.

Collection: Emille Savage, Slightly Sassy, Rhapsodie Roxanna; Best in Show: Rhapsodie Roxanna, **Rose Ghossn**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Sweet Mama, Happy Cricket, Harbor Blue; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Rob's Ice Maiden, Ness' Sno Fun; Best Mini: Rob's Pal Paul; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Joseph Palagonia**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Pinky Winky, Rob's Violet Sky; Best Semi: Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best Trailer: Rob's Sailor Bill, **Marianna Gershen**. Best Design, **Kay Rotando**. Sweepstakes (Design), **Claire Schltzer**.

Diablo Valley AV Growers, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Color Flash, Moonbeams, Mauna Loa; Best in Show: Midnight Wave; Best Trailer: Mission City; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Jackie Kenny**. Best Mini: Bionic Pink; Best Semi: Little Pro, **Kathy Willoughby**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia tongwenstis*, **June Fallaw**. Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Vivien Ragan**.

Busy Bloomers, AR - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pink Confession, Tiger's Son, Tomahawk; Sweepstakes (Design), **Alice Brown**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Phantom Flash, Victorian Velvet, Gala Pink; Best in Show (Advanced); Ruffles; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Glenda Due**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sugar Bear Blues, Little Pro, Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best Mini: Rob's Soliloquy; Best Semi: Sugar Bear Blues, **Connie Lefeste**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Dean's Kitten, Definitely Darryl, **Barbara Due**. Best in Show (Novice): Apache Silver, **Betty Toalson**. Best Trailer: Sundown Trail, **Tena Ott**.

Lake Shore AVS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Happy Cricket, Frosted Whisper; Best in Show: Irish Frost, **Harold Appleton**. Best AVSA Mini/

Semi Collection: Rob's Copper Cat, Mini Papa, Irish Flirt; Best Mini: Rob's Sandstorm; Best Trailer: Cirelda; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Anna Jean Landgren**. Best Semi: Pat Champagne, **Adelle Johnson**. Best Design, **Patsy Harms**.

Violets and Friends Club, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smokey Moon, King's Treasure, Happy Cricket; Best in Show: Happy Cricket, **Terena Stotler**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Southern Nights, Mary Craig, Favorite Child; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Moon Bright; Best Mini: Ballet Blue Ice; Best Semi: Irish Flirt; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Martha Bradney**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Brocade,' **Coral Brown**.

Thousand Oaks AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fredette's Moonflower, Ness' Sizzlin' Pink, Optimara Harlequin; Best in Show: Optimara Harlequin; Best Mini: Petite Tot; Best Semi: Ness' Sno Fun; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Carroll Gealy**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: D'Artagnan, Tomahawk, Mary Craig; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*, **Harold Pappas**. Best Trailer: Wood Trail, **Marla Henderson**. Best Design, **Charline Sims**.

AVC of Burlington County, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Corpus Christi, Tiger's Son; Best in Show: Harbor Blue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Laurel Brown**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Pink Patti, Majestic, **Rita Perzeproski**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Disco Doll, Shutter Bug, Rob's Nearly Perfect; Best Semi: Disco Doll; Best Trailer: Sunset Trail; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Design), **Susan Arnao**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sunspot, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Party Lace; Best Mini: Optimara Little Ruby; Sweepstakes

(Horticulture), **Sandra Skalski**.

Green Thumb AVS, AR - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Sasha, Ellen Griffin's Pride, Lela Marie; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Frosty Belle, Ness' Sweet Pea, Rob's Swizzle Stick; Best in Show: Sasha; Best Mini: Rob's Soliloquy; Best Semi: Ness' Frosty Belle; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Amethyst; Best Design; Sweepstakes (Horticulture/Design), **Ruby Pope**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Marie Knoblock, Wrangler's Dream Fantasy, Granger's Wonderland; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Satin, Ness' Classi Chassi, Rob's Blue Moon, **Anna Mae Buckle**.

Glennview Northshore AVS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picotee Petticoat, You Old Smoothie, Fisherman's Paradise; Best in Show: Picotee Petticoat; Best Trailer: Falling Snow; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee'; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Randy Hillman**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rainbow's Enchanted Gold, Tomahawk, Crystallaire; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Denim Demon, Heritage Frolic, **Tom Moore**. Best Design, **Sue Schroeder**.



RANDY HILLMAN was a winner at a recent Glennview/North Shore (IL) AVS show, "Violets Around The World." Randy won Best AVS Collection with *Picotee Petticoat*, *You Old Smoothie* and *Fisherman's Paradise*.

Ottawa AVS, Canada - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Paisley Print, Happy Cricket, Mindi Brooke; Best in Show: Picasso; Best Semi: Plum Praise; Best Trailer: Dancin' Trail; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Bob McCabe**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Eye Knees, Spanish Moss, Mark; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Irish Flirt, Mini Papa, **Charles Laws**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Mini Papa, Kid Karla, Dolled Up; Best Mini: Rob's Whiz Bang, **Betty Tapping**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Angele Biljan**. Best Design: Sweepstakes (Design), **Bill Westbrook**.

Baystate AVS - Winners: Best in Show/Best Trailer: Nancy Hayes; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Sun Kissed'; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Marge Cunningham**. 2nd Best in Show: Melodie Kimi, **Harlan Montgomery**. Best Semi: Precious Pink; Best Mini: Optimara Little Amethyst, **Lorraine Connors**. Best Variegated: Frosted Whisper, **Nancy Manozzi**. Best Design, **Bob Clark**.

Jefferson AVA, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vince's Choice, Tomahawk, Grandma's Zach; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Ness' Sno Fun, Magic Blue; Best in Show/Best Semi: Definitely Darryl; 2nd Best in Show: Georgia Lover; Best Mini: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Trailer: Honey Bun Trail; Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Gail Boone**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Georgia Lover, Makin' Romance, Chiffon Print, **Barbara Rome**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Black Magic', **Lee Jaunet**. Best Design, **Al & Genelle Armstrong**.

Tidewater AVS, VA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fredette's Moonflower, Grandma's Zach, Midnight Magic; Best in Show: Grandma's Zach; 2nd Best in Show: Fredette's Moonflower, **Sue Hoffmann**. Best Semi: Magic Blue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*;

Sweepstakes (Horticulture), **Irene Moore**. Best Trailer: West Trail, **Marie Mulroy**. Sweepstakes

(Design), **Wendy Harper**. Best Design; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Helen O.', **Pat Knight**.

Award honors Hortense and J. R. Pittman

Wildcatters sought to strike it rich with "Texas Black Gold," but violeteers could strike it rich with "Texas Violet Gold," at the 1994 AVSA Show.

Texas violet clubs and friends have donated rosettes and cash awards of \$300 for First, \$200 for Second, and \$100 for Third place for the winners of the Hortense and J. R. Pittman Collection class: a collection of three Pittman hybrid violets, which need not be registered varieties, but must be of the same size and type; that is, three standards, three semiminis, or three miniatures.

The class is open only to amateur growers and only blue ribbon plants are eligible.

The award honors AVSA President Hortense Pittman and AVSA Commercial Sales Chairman J. R. "Sundown" Pittman for their long and dedicated service to the Texas, U.S., and world African violet communities.

Hortense Pittman has earned our trust and respect through over 20 years association with AVSA.

She is a Senior Judge, director of Dixie AVS, past President of the Magic Knight AVS of San Antonio, San Antonio AVC, Lone Star AVC, and the Cen-Tex Judges Council; and, oh yes, current President of AVSA.

Hortense has chosen growth of AVSA membership as this year's theme.

J. R. Pittman, usually known as Sundown, has served for a long period as Commercial Sales Chairman of AVSA and, for the last 10 years, has been known for his entertaining and very colorful slide presentations of new introductions at the AVSA Convention Luncheon.

He has served in a number of offices, and is the immediate past President of Dixie AVS. He has received the Hudson Memorial Award for outstanding contribution to the African violet community at the local level.

Hortense and Sundown are successful hybridizers and commercial members.

They present programs and conduct workshops across the United States and in Mexico, where they judged the first AVSA show held in that country.

Members of the African violet clubs in Texas and other friends can think of no couple more deserving to be honored by an award given in their name.



QUESTION BOX

JAMES SMITH & RALPH ROBINSON

489 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209



Greetings! Many of you have asked how to maintain club membership. It seems like yesterday that I joined my first club, and that was 20 years ago. Growing the many varieties of African violets, which eventually led to my participation in shows and conventions, has really become part of my life. The wonderful friends that I have made over the years, some gone now, can never be replaced. After completing my second year in the club, I was elected President, and I have been DEEPLY involved ever since. I have been an Affiliate President, Show Chairman and Convention Chairman so many times that I've lost count. My current office is treasurer for the New York State African Violet Society. I guess that if I had to give up my violets and the many associations that I have made, it would be a very sad day for me. All that I can say is that once you are hooked, you are hooked for life!

The following question was asked and answered in a previous column and I am going to repeat it for the benefit of clubs seeking information on how to maintain and refuel the interest of their members.

Question: Our club is losing members every year. We are finding it very difficult to attract and maintain interested members. Do you have any suggestions? Some of us "oldtimers"

would like to pass our skills onto new members.

Answer: One of the quickest ways to lose members is to let your club meetings become boring. KEEP THE BUSINESS MEETING SHORT. The business portion should be no more than 30 minutes long. Maintaining violet activities through good programs will keep members interested. A well organized club is essential. A club's vice president should be responsible for program planning. This person should be knowledgeable and be able to present a schedule of programs that will be of interest as well as educational. Teaching your members to grow violets well is essential. Members that have difficulty in this area tend to become discouraged and drop out. Invite experienced growers into your home, and perhaps they can provide solutions to your growing problems.

Each July/August issue of the *AVM*, provides a list of information and programs that are offered by the AVSA Library. You may write to the AVSA office for a complete list and information. This is a valuable service and program requests must be made early to avoid conflicts.

What should a schedule of programs be like for a year? An example of a club's program agenda follows:

September: "Introducing

African Violets" - A program will be given on introducing the various types of African violets that are available, and what to look for when selecting a plant for show. The 1992 Show Committee will be selected at this meeting. The president's club project plant will be distributed to members. The spring show will be held in April.

October: "What an African violet needs to stay healthy" - Growing tips, fertilizers, soils, watering and lights will be discussed.

November: "Repotting African Violets" - Repotting methods, pots and soil selections, and when is the best time to repot, will be discussed. Various ways to propagate African violets will be discussed. A list of show committee members will be due.

December: "Becoming Familiar with New Varieties" - A slide program is planned. A demonstration on how to groom plants will follow the slide program. The horticulture and design schedules are due. Christmas "pot luck" dinner will be planned.

January: "Interpretive Plant Arrangements" - A demonstration will be given on making an interpretive plant arrangement. The "pot luck" dinner will follow the evening's programs.

February: "Interpretive Flower Arrangements" - A demonstration will be given on making an

interpretive flower arrangement.

March: "How do you Stage an African Violet Show?" - A review of all chairmen and club members responsibilities, the show setup, club ways and means (plant sales, etc.), will be discussed and planned. Job schedules will be handed out for the April show.

April: "Grooming Techniques" - A demonstration will be given on how to clean, groom and pack plants for show. (This will also include checking for suckers and other potential problems.)

May: "Gesneriads for growing" - A slide program will be shown reviewing different gesneriads available for home growing. Examples of the three different classes of gesneriads will be on display.

June: "Summer Growing" - A discussion will be given on how to care for plants during the summer months.

To help maintain interest to members, a display of African violets must be a part of each meeting. We have also found that it is important to have a question and answer period for those members who may be having growing problems. A leaf exchange is always welcome and a good way to promote the distribution of new varieties. There are many ways to arrange your programs for the year. I would strongly suggest to write the AVSA office for a list of available slide programs and library materials. We depend largely on member's expertise for many of our programs, but it is good to have opinions from speakers from other associations to stimulate interest.

Question: What type of soil is

best to use in climates that tend to stay warm for most of the year?

Answer: I receive all kinds of questions concerning what type of soil one should use. In the past 20 years, I have used all sorts of soil mixes from artificial (soilless) to those that contain at least 75% earth and humus. You almost have to be a scientist and experiment with different soil mixes to see which one works best for you. Keep in mind that the growing habitat of violets consisted of warm-humid temperatures, soil that was loose and high in humus. Trace elements were provided by leaves and rocks. It is important to duplicate, as close as you can, the growing conditions where violets were found to grow. The correct type of soil is the primary foundation for growing healthy violets. From the soil, violets receive water and vital nutrition through their root systems. Proper pH is essential, making it possible for the plants to utilize the fertilizers and other trace elements we provide at each watering. In the wild, rains wash the soil of mineral build-up. Since we don't grow our violets outdoors, the best way to keep soils fresh is to repot often (twice a year). Now, with all this in mind, and under my growing conditions (my violets are grown in the basement), I have found that a mixture of peat moss, perlite, vermiculite, charcoal, and limestone (dolomite), serves me best and costs less to make than most soil mixes that I have used in the past. The recipe to make about 5 gallons is as follows:

2-1/2 gal. Promix BX (professional mix)*

2-1/2 gal. course vermiculite #2

2 cups charcoal

2 tablespoons of dolomite lime
1 gal. hot water

*Promix BX contains about 90% Canadian peat moss and 10% course perlite. You can make your own if you can't find Promix. Since this recipe does not contain soil and humus, the trace elements and basic nutritional needs must be provided. To a 5 gallon pail of warm water add at least 1 and 1/2 teaspoons of fertilizer with a nutritional ratio of at least 15-30-15, and alternate with the ratio of 20-20-20. Using this amount of fertilizer prevents light edges around the leaves (halos). This soil mix tends to dry out faster than those containing soil, so you must keep the soil evenly moist, NOT WET.

For those of you who prefer to add soil to the mix, you can do so by using a good potting soil at a ratio of 1/2 of the aforementioned recipe to 1/2 potting soil. If the mix stays too wet, adjust the ratio to 3/4 and 1/4. Either way you mix it, these recipes should work well for most growers around the country. When you convert to a new soil mix, DON'T convert all plants at once. Try the mix on a few to see how it works.

Question: Can you start gesneriads in potting soil mix, or is it best to use a mixture of 1/2 each perlite and vermiculite?

Answer: I have used both mediums to root gesneriads. It is important to provide high humidity by placing a plastic tent over the pot. Shower caps make wonderful tents.

Question: Can I use rain

water on my plants?

Answer: In today's industrial world, I wouldn't recommend it. Rain water contains too many pollutants which will cause irreversible damage to African violets. You are better off using tap water. I have always said that what is safe for you to drink will be fine for your plants. If chlorine content is high, let the water set overnight and it will dissipate to the point that it will be negligible and not harmful.

Question: I have recently purchased several plants which the hybridizer's list describes as multi-color. When the plants finally bloomed, they did not bloom true to the description. My growing conditions are consistent in that I use a soil recipe given in the AVM, and I use 20-20-20 fertilizer. The pH is around 6.8 and temperatures stay around 63 degrees except during the summer when it is hot. My plants are grown in the south window. Is it my growing conditions or the variety of plants that is given me problems?

Answer: Poor breeding and unstable genetic backgrounds of the plant are to blame when a multi-color reverts to a solid color (usually a color of one of the parent plants). There is nothing you can do to control this. Fertilizer or the pH of the soil MAY NOT cause these changes; however, hot temperatures MAY cause some multi-colors to revert to solids. As soon as temperatures become cooler, MOST will bloom true to hybridizer's description and those that don't, should be discarded. I run a fan 24 hours a day to exhaust the heat out of the plant room, and I grow most

multi-colored plants on the bottom shelf of the plant stands. If you grow plants in the window, I would suggest that shade be provided, or move the plants to a less bright, but cooler area. If temperature is not your problem, then, most likely, it is poor genetic material used in the hybridizing program. Unfortunately, there are many multi-colored and two-toned plants on the market that should be trashed because of this.

If you have a specific problem with a particular variety, write a

letter of complaint to the hybridizer. If they receive enough letters concerning the same variety, they may discontinue the plant. Unless you know the specific genetic backgrounds of the two plants you intend to cross, it is very difficult to predict stability. The offspring of the resulting cross MUST be grown several generations to prove stability. If this is not done, then you can blame the hybridizer for not fully testing the plant before releasing it to the public.

Some good advice ...

JOSHUA MCKINNEY
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Goshen, KY 40026

I think this magazine is very informative and it has helped me a great deal. It has given me tips and suggestions that have saved some of my violets and helped me start new ones.

I have had much success growing supermarket African violets. For some, supermarket violets are difficult to grow and to keep alive. Many of my friends receive them as gifts and tell me, "the African violet you gave to me died yesterday."

If you are short on money or just can't get a hold of a catalog, then supermarket violets are

your answer. An advantage is that you get to pick out the violet of your choice.

Here's what to avoid: the violet is silted or has very dry soil; small patches of cottony insects; aphids; little white bugs crawling on top of the soil or in the plant's saucer; or any mold or fungi on the plant or in its soil.

Don't buy a violet in full bloom, or you won't be able to enjoy its blooms very long. Buy an African violet that has a few blooms open and lots of flower buds. Also, don't buy a violet that is overwatered.

For those of you who are still using hanging pest strips in your plant rooms or greenhouses — don't! According to the June issue of the Berkeley Wellness newsletter, many of them contain DDVP (also called dichlorvos or Vapona), a carcinogen that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has considered banning. In California,

these strips must carry a warning label about the cancer risk.

Remember when you are in a room with a pest strip, with every breath you take, you'll be breathing in the pesticide they release constantly.

Lois Wiseman
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AVSA Office Report

CINDY CHATELAIN

What an exciting and busy summer we have had at the Beaumont Office! Planning for the stamp ceremony held on October 8, kept everyone busy with meetings, phone calls, and preparations for the big event. The cooperation we received from Mayor Evelyn Lord's office, local postal officials, and other members of the community was fantastic.

If you missed the ceremony but would like to have a First Day Cover, you can still order them from the AVSA Office. Just send \$2.00 per cover and we will be happy to mail them to you.

A SPECIAL NOTE ON THE JUDGES HANDBOOK: We recently had the Growers & Judges Handbook reprinted. The book now contains all of the changes that have been made since 1992. When you order the new book, you no longer have to order 1992 Updated Pages. The book also is listed as the 1993 Growers & Judges Handbook on the back of the AVM cover. If you have the 1992 Growers & Judges Handbook, you do not need to order the 1993 Handbook. Please remember to read Bill Foster's column and keep your handbook updated with any changes that need to be made.

In September, all current Affiliates were mailed a green form for Affiliate Liability Insurance. We asked that your club return the form to let us know if you want to renew, cancel or add insurance for 1994. If your club has not returned that form, please do so immediately. We

must furnish the insurance company with the information and need all of the forms completed and returned quickly. To those Affiliates who have already responded, I want to say "thanks."

We received several calls after the September magazine was published asking why some Affiliates or Commercial members were not listed. The lists of Affiliates, Commercial Members, and Judges are given to the editor by July 1. If your club failed to renew its dues, you are a new affiliate, or your commercial dues were not renewed by that date, your information will not appear in the September issue. We make every effort to get the information to the editor by the deadline.

We have many requests from members asking that we change their address for several months and then change the address back to the original address on a certain date. At the present time our computers are not set up to allow us to do this. We make every attempt to set up a system that allows us to change the address as requested. However, I do strongly suggest that you simply send in the change of address that is on the front cover of your magazine at least three to four weeks prior to the date your address must be changed. This will assure that your magazine will be sent to the correct address. We cannot guarantee that your address will be changed on a certain date because office personnel changes from time to time and

the change of address information may not be passed on to the next secretary.

We would like to thank the Ashtons of Deneysville, South Africa, for the lovely flag from the Orange Free State.

The office staff wishes you a happy holiday season!



HELEN CHAMBERS won Best Collection at a recent Cincinnati African Violet Society show. She is shown holding *Granger's Wonderland*.

Did you know?

That Long's Peak was named for the leader of the expedition that first climbed Pikes Peak in 1820? The leader of the expedition was Stephen Long.

That Mount Evans has the highest road in Colorado?

SEE YOU IN COLORADO!



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

Big Sky Violets

10678 Schoolhouse Lane
Moiese, MT 59824
406/644-2296

Pleasant Hill African Violets

Route 1, Box 73
Brenham, TX 77833
409/836-9736

Tinari Greenhouses

2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215/947-0144

Cape Cod Violetry

28 Minot Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
508/548-2798

Selective Gardener Catalog

P.O. Box 78398
Nashville, TN 37207-8398

Violets By Appointment

45 Third Street
W. Sayville, NY 11796
516/589-2724

Innis Violets

8 Maddison Lane
Lynnfield, MA 01940
617/334-6679

Teas Nursery

P.O. Box 1603
Bellaire, TX 77402-1603
713/664-4400

The Violet Showcase

3147 South Broadway
Englewood, CO 80110
303/761-1770



mini-tidbits

FLORENCE NAYLOR

2647 Harbor Boulevard, Ventura, CA 93001

The votes are in for the 1993 25 Favorite Miniature/Semiminiature list of African violets grown across the United States.

This tally looks a lot like the 1992 list with a few changes. 'Beginner's Luck' has fallen from favor as has 'Little Katherine'

and 'Sundown Trail.' They have been replaced by 'Milky Way Trail,' 'Sassy Shirley' and 'Winnegreen.'

1993 25 Favorite Miniature/Semiminiature List

Name	Votes	Hybridizer
1. Precious Pink	31	Pittman
2. Snuggles	30	Lyon
3. Irish Flirt	22	Sorano
4. Little Pro	20	Pittman
5. Rob's Sticky Wicket	19	Robinson
6. Pixie Blue	15	Lyon
7. Everdina	14	Inpljn/Nadeau
8. Mickey Mouse	13	Inpljn
9. Dancin' Trail	12	Sorano
10. Rob's Silver Spook	11	Robinson
11. Petite Jewel	10	Pittman
12. Pat Champagne	10	Pittman
13. Irish Angel	10	Egenites
14. Milky Way Trail	10	Stahl
15. Falling Snow	10	Tracey
16. Sassy Shirley	9	Pittman
17. Wee Be	9	Pittman
18. Optimara Rose Quartz	9	Holtkamp
19. Winnegreen	8	Pittman
20. Definitely Darryl	8	Pittman
21. Magic Blue	8	Pittman
22. Rob's Sunspot	8	Robinson
23. Pride of Columbus	8	Pittman
24. Optimara Little Amethyst	8	Holtkamp
25. Ness' Sno Fun	7	Ness
Rob's Soliloquy	7	Robinson
Dawn Michelle	7	Buchanan/Nadeau

I thank all who took the time to send in their choices either individually or collectively. There were a total of 328 varieties nominated. It is obvious that many varieties are grown across this nation. The survey points out that the best varieties grown in all conditions are those listed above.

The new Miniature/Semiminiature Master Variety List #8-1993 is now available from the AVSA office for \$6.95 postpaid. Many of you have been asking for the new list for some time. It is all inclusive through 1992 varieties submitted to the plant registrar.

For those of you who missed the Lancaster AVSA Convention, the yellow violets are definitely here to stay. In fact, Sundown Pittman gave us a peek at a new semiminiature to be released in Denver next year named 'Texas Gold.' It is a lovely yellow bloom on Tommie Lou variegated foliage. It is sure to infect us all with "gold fever." Such excitement has been generated by the prospects of new yellow crosses. I can hardly wait to see the new varieties yet to come. There is a possibility that we may be treated to yellow miniatures in Denver as well. The Pittmans have many crosses that had not bloomed at convention time to see how successful their crosses had been. The prospects are tantalizing.

For those of you who like growing trailers, Pittman's 'Fun Trail' is a real cutie. It is very floriferous with fantasy blooms of pink and purple. Other Pittman trailers I've found very easy to grow are 'Comet Trail' and 'Beacon Trail' for blue trailers, and 'Snowman' for a white.

Ralph Robinson had a beautifully grown 'Rob's Sticky Wicket' grown Japanese style at the convention. It was very symmetrically grown with blooms all around in a shallow salad bowl about 10" in diameter.

My batch of Rob's plants have produced some interesting blooms. 'Rob's Cookie Monster' is a cute bloom, somewhat variable in color pattern, white with blue markings. 'Rob's Whatever' is a nice hot pink and white chimera that never quits blooming, but has only a few large blooms at a time. It is a very symmetrical grower and makes a nice show plant.

'Rob's Sweet Dreams' is a nice two-tone pink that has just started blooming and it has very dark foliage.

My 'Rob's Fiddle Faddle' grows very symmetrically, but has a tendency to have leaves fuse together. It is very floriferous and can be a very good show plant. I just got 'Rob's Dandy Lion' and 'Bee Boopsie' at convention. I look forward to seeing them bloom.

It is interesting to note that every year new varieties are introduced, but the older varieties continue to be favorites across the nation, i.e., 'Pixie Blue' has been around for a long time and continues to be a top 10 favorite through the years. 'Irish Angel,' 'Everdina,' and 'Mickey Mouse' continue to be grown by a lot of people.

They all have common traits — easy to grow symmetrically, with lots of bloom under all conditions. These varieties do well in natural light as well as artificial light.

I have been trying to grow some of the older varieties for

the "Picture Library." If any of you have any of the Window Series, I am interested in obtaining leaves. I have 'Window Lace,' but would like to get 'Window Blue,' 'Window Bouquet,' etc. These were hybridized by Reed. If you have any of them I'd be interested in hearing from you. The 'Picture Library' is an ongoing project of this committee. If you have pictures, either prints or slides, you would like to share of miniatures or semiminiatures, please send them to me. Note the name of the variety, hybridizer, if known, and your name. Eventually, a picture library will be made available to you through the AVSA office via PC. It is our vision to have a data base at the AVSA office that can be accessed by personal computer by any member who wants to see what a particular variety should look like.



PATH HANCOCK won Best in Show with *Carousel Lady* at a recent Cincinnati African Violet Society show.

African violets ... love them or hate them

About six years ago, I became interested in trying the little "house" plants called African violets. This interest came from my training and teaching Vocational Agriculture. I was trained in General Agriculture with specialized training in Pre-employment Laboratory in Horticulture.

I have always enjoyed seeing all types of plants grow.

My wife, Daphne and I were living in San Angelo, Texas, at this time, in an apartment. The apartment dwelling was not very conducive to growing any type of plants. I purchased a commercial violet at the local garden center. Yes, you can guess, it was dead in about two weeks.

The loss of this little violet did not dampen my desire to grow African violets. Later that year, my wife and I visited Volkmann's Greenhouses in Dallas. We purchased three or four more of these beautiful plants. You guessed it, in about three weeks, they were dead.

I am the type of person that reads everything I can get on a subject. I studied several growing booklets including Volkmann's. I thought that I was doing everything just right. As I mentioned, I am trained in growing plants, and should be able to grow any type.

I was determined to "master" growing these little plants. My wife and I attended an African violet show in San Antonio sponsored by a local African Violet Society. We just couldn't believe our eyes. Wow! the plants on exhibit were beautiful and of all types and colors. Again, I became determined to grow

African violets.

Maybe it was because I did not want to be "outdone" by these little plants. We bought two or three new plants and were given some leaves. Back to San Angelo we went with our plants and leaves. I read all of my materials again. Yes, I had been following the instructions exactly, including wick watering, feeding with Peter's African Violet Special (12-36-14), and natural sunlight.

You have guessed correctly, my beautiful plants began to look terrible. The leaves were becoming mushy. I was sure they were dying. I went back to my reading. The only possible problem, in my mind, was the lighting situation.

On the next trip to San Antonio, I purchased a used light stand from Ken Froboese at the Hill Country African Violets.

Again, I went over my growing methods with Ken. He assured me that I should not have any trouble. I was just sure that the light stand would solve my problems. It did not!

In the meantime, I visited Hortense Pittman in San Antonio. Again, I went over my growing procedures and told her of my problem. She seemed to think that I was following the proper growing procedures. I also bought a couple of her "honeys." My problem persisted.

I was about to give up and throw everything into the garbage. In fact, I had grown to "hate" these little plants.

It was time for us to see our daughter in San Antonio again, so I loaded my sick plants in the car and headed there.

DEWEY D. BAUCUM
707 Spraberry Drive
Midland, Texas 79703

That afternoon, upon arriving in San Antonio, I went to see Hortense Pittman. I asked her and her husband to look at my plants. Also, I let her know that I was totally disgusted. She and her husband went back over my growing methods. She dumped out one of my plants and said that the roots were dead. I knew this. What was causing it? The general consensus by Hortense and her husband was that it had to be the water.

I said okay. Do you think that RO water would help? Hortense said, "What is RO water?" I informed her that it was "reverse osmosis" water. This process was supposed to take out all the salts and minerals. This was the only chance that I had to be successful. Hortense must have felt a little sorry for me. She gave me a couple of plants to try with the RO water. Back to San Angelo my wife and I went with excitement motivating us again.

I went immediately to the "water store" and purchased some RO water.

Almost immediately, our little plants began to show improvement. Our new plants continued to grow and bloom.

I was now successful. These little plants were thriving.

Since that first small success, my wife and I have added many cultivars to our collection. We have been successful in propagating many "babies."

Four years have passed and we are still fascinated with African violets. They provide us with year round blooms. Many of our

friends have given us many compliments about our violets. We have given many of them away. We now "love" our "babies."

I have written this article because there are probably

many people who have tried unsuccessfully to grow African violets in West Texas and other areas where the water is loaded with salts and minerals.

They can be grown successfully with the use of the recom-

mended growing methods including RO water.

We now live in Midland, where the water is even harder.

I use a home RO unit to produce good water. Our violets are happy and we are happy.

Memoirs of a Novice Exhibitor

The decision to enter an African violet in a show for the first time seems always rather traumatic. This crisis is multiplied if you happen to be a member of a club with a long history of excellent shows and flawless plants, not to mention a membership composed almost entirely of over-achievers.

I started growing violets because I liked growing violets, not to subject myself to the "thrill of victory or the agony of defeat." Oh, but how my life has changed since that fateful day in the fall of 1992 when our club president talked me into participating in our regional show. (You all know the line — "The show really needs some more plants.")

After I searched my shelves and identified several plants, that according to the president were sure winners, I was off to my first experience as an exhibitor. I arrived at the show and saw huge, perfectly wheel-shaped, violets being entered by Marie B. (she is the king, or more appropriately the queen, of those over-achievers I mentioned earlier). I tried to escape to the car with my plants, but was caught by Diane R.

I thought I knew the entry clerks as buddies from the club, but some how they failed to recognize me. I entered my plants any way and told everyone "I really don't care if I win

anything or not. I'm just doing this for the experience" That night I dreamt the judges looked at my plants and laughed.

The horrible moment finally arrived — the show opened to exhibitors. See judges and think I hear them laugh. Try to appear unconcerned but fail. Ashton's First somehow gets blue ribbon and Best in Class. I'm hooked!

When is the next show? That long. Can't wait. I'll start *trying* to grow show plants. Can't hear enough from Marie B., even listen to Howard B. Can't wait! Learn about point system and ideal plant. I should become a judge!

Take a look at last year's show schedule. Can't wait! Have visions of culturally perfect violets in each class, all are 40 inches across and are graced with 200 blossoms. Can't wait.

Show time drawing near, go visit Marie B., hear her complain about cold damage and lack of any plant worth showing. Go check-out potential entries from competitors Janet H. and Joe S. Ask Shirley H. and Diane R., "How many plants are you going to enter?" Can't wait.

Show time drawing near, look over collection with critical eye. Depression sets in. Most of plants sapped with aerosol spray during Great Thrips Scare. Wonder if there is a class for accidentally variegated? Need time.

GARY GORDON
Baltimore African Violet Club

Show time drawing near, go to back issues of AVM to read encouraging articles, but am very suspicious. All writers won Best in Show. What about failures? Need time.

Decide upon Coral Kiss as best plant — if I enter.

Rosedale and Pensi Classic, my other best plants, won't open their blossoms. Knock two leaves off Happy Cricket trying to wash leaves. Spill liquid bleach on blossoms of Casper the Ghost, they turn brown, definitely won't have a white entry. Call Shirley H. and Diane R., "How many plants are you going to enter?" Need time.

Show day finally arrives, Coral Kiss still mercifully intact despite mysterious shaking disease which attacks both hands of owner. Marie B. exhibits expected beauties. Joe S. exhibits unexpected beauties (definitely hidden when I toured his shelves.)

Judges finish, but afraid to look. Try to appear unconcerned but fail. Curiosity prevailing, I find plants and make tally — not bad. Maybe this was fun after all!

Author's note:

Any resemblance to living persons or actual events is purely intentional.

True Confessions ...

of an African violet addict

PEGGY PAYNE

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When I was growing up, I hated to get my hands dirty — no dirt under my fingernails, please. So I did not garden, except under extreme pressure.

House plants weren't of the vaguest interest.

How that has changed!

I'm an addict — now — no doubt about it.

I got hooked when I moved back home to live and teach school near by. My mother had a few violets growing in a shaded west window. They were large, beautiful and full of blooms. She also had a large Christmas cactus and an Angel Wing begonia.

The violets grew in soil from the garden and had never heard of insect pests or disease.

They had names like Blue Boy, Double White Pride, Neptune and America.

I started taking care of them and they were so beautiful. Then I saw an ad in my mother's gardening magazine for an African violet catalog — only 25¢.

I just had to have it. I sent a quarter for it and it had pictures! It wasn't long before I had an order in the mail.

I discovered that when you put down leaves, you get more plants. Labels became lost, but that didn't matter. I couldn't bother with names.

Window sills became crowded,

but I had a large room with floor to ceiling windows at school. This was before the administration became energy conscious and lowered the ceiling.

My violets went to school and I got some bloom in the winter. In fact, I could grow plants there that I had trouble with later.

I soon had a reputation as a "green thumber" who could do magic with plants. I was the "Plant Lady."

This was before I ran into insects that made me experienced enough to be the "Plant Doctor."

In another issue of that same plant magazine, I saw an ad for something called an African Violet Society. Naturally, I had to join that society.

An entire magazine about violets? Wonderful!

My violets wouldn't bloom heavily in winter, not even at school, so I prevailed upon my brother to build one plant stand. Another soon followed, and another.

I acquired lights and I was off. My violets began blooming and the foliage flattened out to resemble the photographs in the magazine.

Another notice, this time in a local newspaper, led me to a local African violet club.

Fellow addicts! My first show was an experience, and by sheer

luck, I won some blue ribbons. We had one grower who spent a lot of time with his violets and grew plants to perfection. He was retired and always glad to have me drop in — I think. He did nothing to discourage my addiction because he was always giving me plants.

Some of the nicest people I know are violet growers.

My mother broke her hip and was in a wheelchair, so I thought perhaps I should cut back on my hobby. She loved them so, however, especially the miniatures and variegates, and encouraged me to go on as usual.

Some of the early plants I acquired on my own were Tommy Lou, Happy Harold and Silver Celebration.

I had Something Special and Private Stock, also.

I had never isolated my plants — maybe it wasn't emphasized enough to me, or maybe — and more likely — I thought my plants were immune to troubles.

One day, when my violets were in full bloom, I spotted little brown insects cavorting around on the blooms. I had no trouble identifying them. I had heard of thrips.

I was both upset and angry with myself for not disbudbing plants I had brought into the house. I thought I knew where

they came from, but the source wasn't important.

There they were, not bothering to hide in the centers. They were having a great time. I disbudded and sprayed with Orthene.

Before the plants had fully recovered from thrips, I noticed that some of my violets had funny looking centers. I had a darling little black tabby cat who was known to lie on the plants, so I blamed her. But I had a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach that it was cyclamen mites.

A trip to a local greenhouse with an affected plant confirmed it. He gave me enough Pentac to spray all my plants.

I was ready to give up. My mother had just died and I missed her. My brother was not a plant person. It was not a good way to begin a new year.

But, instead of pitching all my plants, I sprayed a shelf of plants every day for three weeks, alternating Pentac and Morestan with No Pest strips. It left them so disfigured that I had no plants to show that year. The only entry I had was a little trailer in an unusual container.

Between mites and thrips, my plants were a mess for two years. I disbudded and had very little bloom for that period of time, and I was constantly spraying. Only an addict would have persisted in the face of this onslaught.

I also followed every known method of watering, although wicking had always worked well for me. I tried matting and my plants dried out quickly. Finally, two years ago, I went back to wicking and my plants are now on course and doing well.

I still have too many violets and I still want to try every thing I see on plant lists, but I do restrain myself somewhat now — you see — I have discovered

the other relatives such as epis-cias and sinningias. And, guess what? I just ordered FIVE packets of mini sinningia seed.

I guess I'm hopeless..

Russian seedlings grown in Baltimore

The highlight of the 39th Baltimore African Violet Club show this past spring was a very special club project, imported from the former Soviet Union.

Svetlana Prilutskaya, from the Ukraine, sent three packages of her own African violet crosses, to Marie Burns of the Baltimore Club. As Marie's growing area was already brimming over with her own hybrids, she passed out the three seed pods to other BAVC members.

The seedlings used for the club project ranged from dark purple blossoms to mauve, multicolors of white, lavender and orchid, as well as beautiful two-tone varieties. There was also a wide range of single, semidouble and double blossoms, and some with unusual petals that looked like orchid spikes. The plants were small and compact, rather than the large-growing show plants we are used to. All plants had eight to 10 blossoms per stalk and medium to light green foliage.

The Best Club Project was won by Joe Suzow with 'Russian Sky,' a lovely white multicolor with hints of orchid and lavender. Joe also won Best Novice with 'Mindi Brooke' and Best Lyons Plant with 'Fire Mountain.'

— DIANE RICHARDSON



JOE SUZOW won Best Club Project with 'Russian Sky,' at the 39th annual Baltimore AVC show.

A Texas-Style Pot for growing the micro-mini African violet

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If you use Texas-style pots for growing your standard African violets, you may wish to try the following method for starting and growing your micro-mini African violets.

In December 1987, I collected disposable clear plastic communion cups and made them into micro-mini Texas-style pots. These cups are 1-3/8 inches high, 1-3/8 inches in diameter at the top and 3/4 inches in diameter at the base. I used my small soldering iron to melt two holes at the base and four holes at 3/4 inches around the middle of the cup. The dimensions are indicated in Fig. 1.

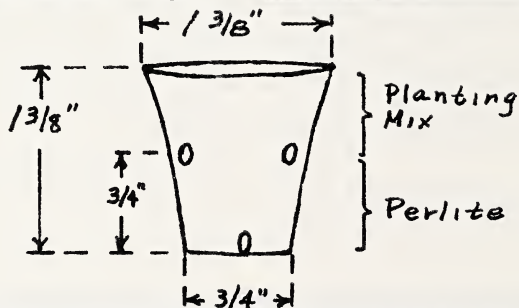


Figure 1. A micro-mini Texas-style pot made from a disposable clear plastic communion cup by making 2 holes at the base and 3-4 holes at 3/4 inches above the base.

This Texas-style pot is half filled with perlite, and the tiny sucker or rooted plant is planted in the usual manner above the perlite. My planting mixture is equal parts of perlite, vermiculite and sterile charcoal.

For display when the micro-mini is in bloom, I use a bit of floral clay on the bottom of the micro-mini pot to fasten it in the center of a 4-inch diameter plastic tray. Regular African violet fertilizer solution is added to the tray as needed. My Optimara Rose Quartz grown this way and exhibited in the class

of unusual containers won the Best Miniature award at the Union County (NJ) Chapter Show in 1989. (See Fig. 2)



Figure 2. Optimara Rose Quartz grown and blooming in a micro-mini Texas-style pot.

in a half-inch thick styrofoam "doughnut" and float the combination in an opaque tub

filled with fertilizer solution, as indicated in Fig. 3.

A one-inch hole saw makes the correct size hole to accommodate the micro-mini pot. A larger sheet of styrofoam with more holes, and an appropriately larger container for flotation, can be used to accommodate several of the pots at one time.

Alternatively, wick watering can be used to maintain the micro-minis while in bloom. When plants in micro-mini

Texas-style pots begin to show buds, I transplant them into 1-1/4 inch thumb pots with wicks and set them on hexagonal or square miniwell reservoirs. Here I prefer to use dark green wells to minimize the growth of algae.



Figure 3. Micro-mini Texas-style pots, with styrofoam rings for flotation.

The 1993 Master List of African Violets

Compiled by Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman

Supplement to African Violet Magazine Volume 46 No. 6 November/December 1993

*designates registered varieties

A

***ADDIE LOU HARRIS** (7820) 12/30/92 (D. Ness) Semidouble dark red pansy/variable white markings at edge. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, plain. **Semiminiature**

AFFECTION (I. Fredette) Semidouble white frilled/blue marking. Bright green, plain, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

***AHOY THERE** (7831) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Single-semidouble dark blue large star/white ruffled edge. Dark green, plain, quilted, scalloped. **Large**

***ALAMO BLISS** (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble frilled star. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy/red back. **Large**

ALAMO BLISS (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble vivid pink pansy/raspberry fantasy. Dark green. **Standard**

ALAMO FOLLY (H. Pittman) Semidouble fuchsia/thin white frilled edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

ALAMO GLORY (H. Pittman) Double white/pink marking, edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

ALAMO HAVEN (H. Pittman) Double cherry pink. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

ALAMO JEWEL (H. Pittman) Semidouble lavender large pansy/purple tips, variable thin white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

ALAMO JUSTICE (H. Pittman) Double white and blue. Light-medium green. **Standard**

ALAMO RAINBOW (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble white sticktite/pink, lavender and blue edge. Medium green.

Standard

ALAMO SPARKLER (H. Pittman) Semidouble-double vivid pink/purple fantasy. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

ALAMO SPLASHY (H. Pittman) Double lavender/purple fantasy. Dark green. **Standard**

ALAMO SUNRISE (H. Pittman) Semidouble-double white/lavender, pink and blue fantasy. Medium green. **Standard**

AMBASSADOR (Volkman) Single red ruffled. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

AMETHYST FOUNTAIN (I. Fredette) Semidouble-double amethyst shaded wavy star. Bright green, scalloped, variable rose edge. **Standard trailer**

ANGEL FROST (Eyerdom) Semidouble light blue-lavender/dark blue fantasy. Plain. **Standard**

ANGEL HALO (H. Pittman) Semidouble mauve-rose/darker eye, rays. Dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**

ANGEL'S REFLECTION (S. Sorano) Double pink large/blue fantasy. Medium green. **Standard**

ANTIQUE IRISH CRYSTAL (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark pink/orchid overlay, dark green and white ruffled edge. Variegated green, white and pink, ruffled. **Large**

ANTIQUE IRISH LACE (S. Sorano) Double pink two-tone large star/white edge. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Standard**

***ANTONIA** (7791) 9/9/92 (D. Harrington) Semidouble pink ruffled pansy/darker eye, thin green edge on top petals. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, ruffled. **Standard**

APACHE ARROWPOINT (J. Munk) Double lavender two-tone/darker shading, edge. Crown variegated green and bronze. **Standard**

APACHE BANDANA (J. Munk) Semidouble fuchsia large frilled. Variegated green, white and pink. **Standard**

APACHE BIRD (J. Munk) Semidouble blue frilled pansy/darker eye, top petals. Variegated green, pink and white. **Standard**

APACHE DELIGHT (J. Munk) Single-semidouble lavender pansy/darker edge. Variegated green, pink and white. **Standard**

APACHE FOOTSTEPS (J. Munk) Semidouble rose-pink frilled pansy/fuchsia shading on top petals. Variegated green, pink and white. **Standard**

APACHE GEM (J. Munk) Semidouble lavender wavy pansy/darker top petals, edge. Variegated green, pink and white, ruffled. **Standard**

APACHE JUBILEE (J. Munk) Double light purple/white wavy, frilled edge. Variegated green, pink and white. **Standard**

APACHE LIBERTY (J. Munk) Semidouble light lavender wavy, frilled pansy. Crown variegated green and bronze. **Standard**

APACHE MAGIC (J. Munk) Semidouble dark purple/white and green frilled edge. Variegated green, pink and white, plain. **Standard**

APACHE PRIMROSE (J. Munk) Double pink ruffled, frilled/raspberry top petals. Variegated green, white and pink. **Standard**

APACHE PROMISE (J. Munk) Semidouble dark lavender-plum frilled pansy/darker top petals. Variegated green, pink and white. **Standard**

APACHE SHADOWS (J. Munk) Double dark red-purple frilled. Variegated green, pink and white. **Standard**

APACHE SILVER (J. Munk) Semidouble-double white. Crown variegated green and yellow. **Standard**

***APPLE ANNIE** (7759) 8/6/92 (N.

Johnston) Semidouble dark red and coral large ruffled star. Variegated dark green, pink and cream, ovate, quilted/red back. **Standard**

***ASHLEY** (7844) 1/11/93 (D. Stevens) Single bright rose-pink two-tone pansy/darker eye. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

AUGUST MOON (Volkman) Semidouble white star/variable pink eye. Light green, heart-shaped. **Standard**

B

BALLADIN (D. Croteau) Semidouble fuchsia two-tone. Dark green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

***BEACON TRAIL** (7861) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble lavender-purple. Medium green, plain. **Semiminature traller**

BEVERLY (Volkman) Orchid two-tone ruffled star. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

BIG JOHN (L. Munk) Semidouble blue-purple wavy large. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

BIG SPRING (Volkman) Semidouble white large ruffled star. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

***BISHOP** (7792) 9/9/92 (D. Harrington) Semidouble rose pansy/green ruffled edge. Light green, heart-shaped, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

***BLAINE LOUISE** (7799) 9/22/92 (D. Benge) Semidouble rose-pink two-tone frilled. Variegated green and white, ovate, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

BLUE BUTTERFLY (Volkman) Double light blue star. Plain, quilted. **Standard**

***BLUE EARTH** (7906) 6/26/93 (F. Tinari) Semidouble blue-purple/white sparkle edge. Medium green, ovate/red back. **Standard**

BLUE ELF (Volkman) Single-semidouble medium blue star/white edge. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

BLUE GARDENIA (M. Burns) Double bright blue ruffled star. Dark green, pointed, quilted. **Large**

BLUE IS BLUE (S. Sorano) Semidouble

medium blue large ruffled star. Dark green, wavy. **Standard**

BLUE RADIANCE (Eyerdom) Double vivid blue/wide white edge. Plain. **Standard**

BLUSHING IVORY (S. Sorano/Blansit) Single ivory wavy star/wide pink-orchid sparkle edge. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

BONNY BLUE (Volkman) Semidouble dark blue star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

BOURGUIGNON (D. Croteau) Burgundy star. Dark green/red back. **Standard**

BRAVO (Volkman) Single-semidouble purple large ruffled star/variable white edge. Medium green, heart-shaped. **Standard**

***BRIDAL LADY** (7760) 8/6/92 (N. Johnston) Single-semidouble white sticktite large ruffled bell. Variegated medium green and cream, heart-shaped, serrated, girl foliage. **Miniature**

***BUD AND WALTER** (7851) 2/26/93 (E. H. Adams) Single-semidouble pale pink sticktite star/darker rays. Medium green, ovate, spooned, quilted, wavy, serrated. **Large**

C

CANDY CRYSTALS (S. Sorano) Semidouble medium pink pansy/cherry red fantasy. Variegated medium green and white. **Semiminature**

CANDY FOUNTAIN (I. Fredette) Double rose-pink. Variegated bright green, cream and white. **Standard trailer**

CANDY SPRINKLES (S. Sorano) Double pink star/blue and purple fantasy, white edge. Variegated green and white. **Semiminature**

CARPET OF SNOW (Volkman) Single-semidouble white. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

***CHARTREUSE WONDER** (7855) 3/19/93 (D. Harrington) Semidouble white pansy/pink eye, green ruffled edge. Light green, wavy. **Standard**

***CHEERS** (7862) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Double rose/white. Variegated dark

green and white, plain. **Semiminature**

CHERRY SPARKLES (S. Sorano) Double medium pink pansy/vivid red sparkle fantasy. Medium green. **Standard**

***CHIC** (7832) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Semidouble bright pink star/dark blue fantasy, white edge. Medium green, plain, scalloped. **Large**

CINNAMON RUFFLES (S. Sorano) Double dark red large fluted pansy. Black-green, ruffled. **Standard**

***CONCORD** (7807) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Ozaki) Single-semidouble chimera white pansy/dark blue stripe. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy. **Standard**

CORAL FANTASY (Eyerdom) Semidouble vivid coral fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

***CRYSTAL ROSE** (7845) 1/15/93 (Eyerdom) Single chimera raspberry ruffled/white stripe. Light green, glossy, wavy. **Standard**

CUPID'S KISS (S. Sorano) Double white ruffled pansy/raspberry red shading, edge. Medium green, glossy, wavy. **Semiminature**

***CURLIE WERLIE** (7793) 9/9/92 (D. Harrington) Single fuchsia sticktite star/pink ruffled edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, ruffled. **Standard**

D

***DAFFY DAN** (7794) 9/9/92 (D. Harrington) Double dark pink ruffled pansy. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

DANCIN' DEVIL (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark red fluted. Medium green. **Standard**

***DANCING TEEN** (7863) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble lavender/white edge. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminature**

DERBY (Volkman) Double purple ruffled large. Dark green, wavy. **Standard**

DESIGNER SILK (I. Fredette) Single vivid pink sticktite pansy/variable purple fantasy. Medium green, plain, quilted.

Small standard

DIAMOND RUFFLES (S. Sorano) Single white sticktite ruffled pansy. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

DIAMONDS 'N' PEARLS (S. Sorano) Semidouble white ruffled star/variable pink marking, edge. Medium green. **Standard**

DIXIE QUEEN (Volkmann) Pink large star. Medium green, heart-shaped. **Standard**

***DOLORES' FRANK** (7858) 4/10/93 (D. Harrington) Double pink ruffled pansy/darker shading. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

DOUBLE DUTY (L. Munk) Double blue/white frilled edge. Dark green, ruffled. **Standard**

DOUBLE PRINT (M. Burns) Double pink star/blue fantasy. Variegated dark green and white, pointed, glossy, serrated. **Large**

E

***EDELWEISS** (7924) 7/12/93 (N. Levine) Double white ruffled. Dark green, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Large**

ELEKTRA (Eyerdom) Semidouble purple-lavender/white edge. Plain. **Standard**

F

FALL COLORS (S. Sorano) Semidouble light red-coral shaded ruffled pansy. Dark olive green/red back. **Standard**

FANCY FOUNTAIN (I. Fredette) Semidouble light pink large wavy star/blue fantasy. Variegated medium green, white and pink. **Standard trailer**

FANTASY FROST (Eyerdom) Double light pink large fantasy. Light green, plain. **Standard**

FANTASY LACE (Eyerdom) Double pink/lavender frilled fantasy. **Standard**

FANTASY RADIANCE (Eyerdom) Double dark pink fantasy/wide white edge. Plain. **Standard**

FANTASY SURPRISE (M. Burns) Single-semidouble rose-lavender large ruffled star/dark blue fantasy. Black-green,

pebbled, serrated/red back. **Large**

***FLORENCE WALKER** (7817) 11/14/92 (A. Hummer) Double purple/thin white ruffled edge. Variegated medium green and pink, ruffled. **Large**

***FOXY BABY** (7796) 9/19/92 (J. Stokes) Single rose-red bell. Medium, green, quilted. **Miniature trailer**

***FRENCH KISS** (7802) 10/1/92 (Armstrong/Domiano) Double dark pink shaded ruffled large/fuchsia sparkle overlay. Dark green, plain. **Large**

FROLIC BLUE (Volkmann) Semidouble dark blue large ruffled star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

FROSTED MIDNIGHT (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark red-purple large star/white edge. Dark green. **Large**

FROSTY (Volkmann) Single light blue large sticktite star/white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

FUNNY BUNNY (H. Pittman) Semidouble vivid fuchsia. Light green. **Semiminiature**

G

GALACTIC DANCIN' (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue ruffled star/light and dark fantasy. Dark green. **Standard**

GENETIC BLUSH (J. Smith) Semidouble-double light pink pansy/rose-pink shaded top petals. Mosaic variegated dark green, serrated. **Standard**

GENETIC DAWN (J. Smith) Semidouble-double light pink two-tone pansy/raspberry edge. Mosaic variegated bright green and cream, serrated. **Standard**

GENETIC DWARF (J. Smith) Semidouble dark pink-red two-tone. Mosaic variegated dark green, cream and pink. **Miniature**

GENETIC GEM (J. Smith) Semidouble vivid rose-pink and fuchsia mottled, wavy. Mosaic variegated dark green and light green-yellow, wavy. **Standard**

GENETIC PEARL (J. Smith) Semidouble pink ruffled star. Mosaic variegated light green. **Standard**

***GENTILITY** (7833) 1/4/93 (G. Durand)

Double lavender star/purple fantasy, darker tips, white edge. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, scalloped. **Standard**

GINGER (Volkmann) Single light blue large star/darker eye. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

***GLACIER QUEEN** (7925) 7/12/93 (N. Levine) Single-semidouble white/purple, green edge. Variegated light green and white, plain, pointed. **Large**

GLITTER FOUNTAIN (I. Fredette) Semidouble pink/some red fantasy, red sparkle edge. Variegated dark green, cream and pink. **Standard trailer**

***GLORIOUS PRESENT** (7852) 3/6/93 (E. Wasche) Semidouble-double rose/darker shading, thin white edge. Variegated dark green, pink and tan, plain, glossy, scalloped/red back. **Large**

GLOW PINK (Volkmann) Single-semidouble pink star. Plain. **Standard**

GLOW PURPLE (Volkmann) Single-semidouble purple large ruffled star. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

***GOIN' DANCING** (7856) 3/19/93 (D. Harrington) Double white/pink shading, darker ruffled edge. Light green, heart-shaped, quilted, ruffled. **Standard**

GOLDEN GLOW (S. Sorano/Blansit) Semidouble white wavy large/yellow mottling. Medium-dark green, wavy. **Standard**

GOLDEN THREADS (S. Sorano/Blansit) Semidouble-double white wavy star/yellow mottling. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

***GRANGER'S SUGAR FROST** (7846) 1/15/93 (Eyerdom) Single chimera pink star/white stripe, raspberry sparkle. Light green, plain, glossy. **Standard**

***GRAPE COOLER** (7834) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Single-semidouble purple pansy. Variegated dark green, white and pink, plain, glossy. **Large**

GRAPE TREAT (H. Pittman) Semidouble lavender to purple. Variegated. **Miniature**

H

***HAKU-YOKI** (7808) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Shinohara) Double white ruffled star. Medium green, quilted, glossy, ruffled/red back. **Large**

***HANDMADE** (7380) 6/4/90 (H. Pittman) Semidouble purple. TL variegated dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**

***HEKI-YOKI** (7809) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Shinohara) Double blue frilled star. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy/red back. **Large**

HOLY TOLEDO (I. Fredette) Semidouble raspberry large star. Dark green, plain. **Large**

HONDO HONEY (H. Pittman) Semidouble fuchsia. Dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**

***HORTENSE'S LITTLE SUNSET** (7864) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble dark blue. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

HOT STREAK (E. Champion) Double vivid pink. Mosaic variegated dark green and pink. **Standard**

***HUMUNGOUS** (7857) 3/19/93 (D. Harrington) Double pink large frilled star. Dark green, heart-shaped, wavy. **Standard**

I

IMAGINATION (M. Burns) Semidouble-double blue large frilled star/burgundy edge. Variegated medium-dark green, white and burgundy, ruffled. **Large**

***IRISH LINEN** (7761) 8/6/92 (N. Johnston) Semidouble white star/green edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Semiminiature**

***ITZA PEACH** (7835) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Semidouble peach two-tone large ruffled star. Dark green, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Large**

J

JAZZY JEWEL (S. Sorano) Single light cherry red two-tone large sticktite star/thin white edge. Medium green. **Large**

***JUNE ROSE** (7847) 1/15/93 (Eyerdom) Double red-orchid/lighter band, white

edge. Medium green, plain, hairy, glossy/red back. **Standard**

JUPITER'S JOY (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/variable fuchsia rays. Medium green, glossy. **Semiminature**

K

***KATIE ANNA** (7803) 10/1/92 (Armstrong/Domiano) Semidouble medium pink star/darker edge. Dark green, plain, pointed, glossy/red back. **Large**

***KEI-YOKI** (7810) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Shinohara) Semidouble-double white and blue frilled star/variable green edge. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy/red back. **Large**

***KISS OF POCAHONTAS** (7800) 9/24/92 (N. Johnston) Semidouble dark coral-red ruffled large/darker center, veins. Variegated dark and light green and cream, ovate, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

***KON TIKI** (7371) 4/19/90 (B. Elkin) Single rose-coral star/violet fantasy. Dark green, pointed, hairy/variable red back. **Semiminature**

L

LACY RED (Volkman) Red star/green ruffled edge. Wavy. **Standard**

***LADY BLUE** (7779) 8/13/92 (M. Burns) Semidouble-double light blue ruffled star/variable thin white edge. **Large**

LADY LOVE (M. Burns) Semidouble light pink frilled/plum sparkle edge. Variegated dark green, rose, plum and white, heart-shaped. **Large**

LAKE LUZERNE (I. Fredette) Semidouble-double light blue large ruffled star. Variegated dark green, plain, quilted. **Large**

LAMBERT CLOSSE (D. Croteau) Semidouble lavender-red large star. Variegated medium green and cream. **Standard**

***LAVENDER SUNRISE** (7907) 6/26/93 (F. Tinari) Semidouble lavender two-tone/darker top petals. Medium green, ovate, serrated. **Standard**

LEMON WHIP (S. Sorano/Blansit) Single-

semidouble white frilled/yellow mottling. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**

LILAC PEARL (I. Fredette) White to violet variable large star/variable stripe. Variegated, plain. **Standard**

LILIAN'S SPARKLER (E. Champion) Double light pink/wine fantasy, edge. Mosaic variegated dark green and pink. **Standard**

LILLIE (Volkman) Semidouble dark blue large ruffled star. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

LIME FROSTY (S. Sorano) Double white and lime green mottled/variable rose and fuchsia marking. Medium green, ruffled. **Standard**

LITTLE BRITCHES (S. Sorano) Semidouble light red-orchid star/dark purple fantasy. Black-green, quilted/red back. **Semiminature**

***LITTLE SOCIALITE** (7801) 9/24/92 (N. Johnston) Double hot pink ruffled. Variegated dark green and cream, quilted, serrated. **Miniature**

***LITTLE URCHIN** (7762) 8/6/92 (N. Johnston) Double light fuchsia and light pink ruffled star. Variegated medium green and cream, heart-shaped, quilted. **Miniature**

LOOKING GLASS (S. Sorano) Double pink star/thin red band, white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

LOVE IS BLUE (I. Fredette) Semidouble-double medium blue large star/white edge. Dark green, plain. **Large**

LUCILLE (Volkman) Double pink star. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

***LUSTY LADY** (7836) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Double orchid-pink large star. Dark green, plain, scalloped. **Large**

***LUSTY LILAC** (7804) 10/1/92 (Armstrong/Domiano) Semidouble-double lavender two-tone star. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**

M

MAAS' DOROTHY (Union County Chapter AVS) Semidouble lavender two-tone. Dark green. **Standard**

MAAS' EDNA (Union County Chapter

- AVS) Semidouble red frilled. Red back. **Standard**
- MAAS' ESTELLE** (Union County Chapter AVS) Semidouble pink. Light green. **Standard**
- MAAS' FAITH** (Union County Chapter AVS) Double light pink. Light green. **Standard**
- MAAS' FIRECRACKER** (Union County Chapter AVS) Single red. Ovate, scalloped. **Standard**
- MAAS' GRACE** (Union County Chapter AVS) Single fuchsia frilled. **Standard**
- MAAS' JILL** (Union County Chapter AVS) Semidouble pink two-tone. Dark green/red back. **Standard**
- MAAS' KATHARINE** (Union County Chapter AVS) Semidouble red two-tone frilled. Dark green, ovate, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- MAAS' MARION** (Union County Chapter AVS) Single rose frilled. Wavy. **Standard**
- MAAS' MARJORIE** (Union County Chapter AVS) Semidouble burgundy. Dark green, scalloped. **Standard**
- MAAS' MARTHA** (Union County Chapter AVS) Semidouble light pink ruffled. Light green, ovate. **Standard**
- MAAS' MEL** (Union County Chapter AVS) Semidouble pink. **Standard**
- MAAS' MURIEL** (Union County Chapter AVS) Semidouble lavender ruffled. Spooned. **Standard**
- MAAS' NANCY** (Union County Chapter AVS) Semidouble pink frilled/purple fantasy. Quilted. **Standard**
- MAAS' PENNY** (Union County Chapter AVS) Semidouble rose ruffled. Round, spooned/variable red back. **Standard**
- MAAS' ROBERT** (Union County Chapter AVS) Double red frilled. **Standard**
- MAAS' ROY** (Union County Chapter AVS) Double dark pink two-tone frilled. Dark green. **Standard**
- MAAS' SUNFOLLOWER** (Union County Chapter AVS) Semidouble white. Light green. **Standard**
- MAAS' TONY** (Union County Chapter AVS) Double white/green edge. Dark green/red back. **Standard**
- MAAS' WALTHER** (Union County Chapter AVS) Semidouble pink. Dark green, glossy. **Standard**
- MAGIC FOUNTAIN** (I. Fredette) Single-semidouble pink star. Crown variegated medium green, cream and pink. **Standard trailer**
- *MAI-YOKI** (7811) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Shinohara) Double white frilled star/pink tinge. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy/red back. **Large**
- MAMA'S LIGHT TOUCH** (R. Cox) Semidouble-double white wavy pansy/variable green tinge. Light green, serrated. **Standard**
- MAMA'S MYSTERY** (R. Cox) Semidouble-double dark blue star/variable pink fantasy. Variegated dark green, pink and cream, quilted, glossy. **Large**
- MANEGE** (D. Croteau) Semidouble violet-red star. Variegated dark green, tan and pink. **Standard**
- MARGARITA** (I. Fredette) Double vivid rose-pink wavy/some plum-rose shading. Medium-dark green, plain. **Large**
- *MARIE'S BODEGA LOVER** (7782) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Single medium blue sticktite ruffled pansy. Variegated dark green, rose and cream, pointed, ruffled, scalloped. **Large**
- *MARIE'S BODEGA WATERCOLOR** (7783) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Double pink rose, and white shaded ruffled star. Mosaic variegated pink, rose, cream and dark green, plain, quilted, hairy, wavy. **Large**
- *MARIE'S COLLEEN SUE** (7784) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Semidouble rose-pink large frilled star/crimson tips, thin edge. Variegated dark green, cream and some pink, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, scalloped. **Large**
- *MARIE'S LADY BETH** (7785) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Semidouble peach-pink star. Variegated black-green and cream, plain, ovate, hairy, wavy. **Large**
- *MARIE'S PINK BOUQUET** (7786) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Double pink ruffled pansy. Mosaic variegated green, pink

- and white, ruffled, scalloped, girl foliage. **Standard**
- *MARIE'S SIR BYRON** (7787) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Double fuchsia ruffled star/near-black top petals. Variegated black-green and ivory, plain, ovate, glossy, scalloped. **Large**
- *MARIE'S TOPSY TURVY** (7788) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Double bright fuchsia frilled pansy. Variegated dark green, cream and rose, ruffled, scalloped, girl foliage. **Semiminiature**
- *MARIE'S WINDTRIPPER** (7789) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Single-semidouble pink frilled star. Mosaic variegated dark green and cream, ruffled, girl foliage. **Standard**
- MARMALADE** (E. Champion) Double medium pink/berry fantasy, edge. Crown variegated green and yellow, quilted. **Standard**
- *MELOW FELLOW** (7837) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Double medium blue large star/white edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, scalloped. **Large**
- MIDNIGHT LOVE** (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble dark red star/white edge. Dark green. **Standard**
- *MIDNIGHT SONATA** (7908) 6/26/93 (F. Tinari) Double dark purple wavy. Dark green, cupped, heart-shaped/red back. **Standard**
- MIDNIGHT SUN** (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark red frilled. Black-green, wavy. **Standard**
- MIDNIGHT SUNSET** (S. Sorano) Semidouble medium blue/pink fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- MIDNIGHT TREASURE** (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble violet-purple ruffled pansy/white edge, some green. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- MINDI ROSE** (G. Boone) Semidouble fuchsia-rose two-tone frilled pansy. Variegated dark green and cream, wavy. **Large**
- MISTY MIDGET** (E. Champion) Double light pink/shaded tips. Crown variegated light green. **Miniature**
- *MONTREAL** (7874) 6/1/93 (Y. Decelles) Semidouble medium blue star. Variegated dark green and pink, plain. **Standard**
- *MOOD MUSIC** (7838) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Single violet two-tone sticktite star. Dark olive green, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- MUD PIE** (E. Champion) Double smoke-lavender shaded large. Crown variegated medium green. **Standard**
- MUFFY** (S. Sorano) Double pink frilled/light green blush. Black-green, ovate. **Large**
- *MY TRUE LOVE** (7763) 8/6/92 (N. Johnston) Semidouble dark purple-blue star. Dark green, pointed, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**
- *MYSTERY LADY** (7839) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Semidouble bright lavender two-tone pansy. Variegated medium green and white, plain, pointed. **Standard**
- N**
- *NANCY'S JOY** (7905) 6/11/93 (J. Pursley) Single chimera pink star/lavender stripe. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**
- *NESS' ANGEL BABE** (7821) 12/30/92 (D. Ness) Semidouble-double pink ruffled pansy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Miniature**
- *NESS' BLUE PEARL** (7822) 12/30/92 (D. Ness) Semidouble light blue star/thin white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- *NESS' BLUE VELVET** (7823) 12/30/92 (D. Ness) Semidouble dark blue star/thin white edge. Dark green, plain, wavy/red back. **Standard**
- NESS' CANDY PINK** (D. Ness) Semidouble vivid pink ruffled star. Variegated dark green, cream and pink. **Standard**
- NESS' CHERRY SMOKE** (D. Ness) Semidouble-double white pansy/cherry ruffled edge. Light green, quilted. **Standard**
- NESS' CORAL SUNSET** (D. Ness) Semidouble coral-pink pansy. Variegated dark green, cream, and pink. **Large**
- *NESS' DYNAMITE** (7824) 12/30/92 (D. Ness) Double dark fuchsia/thin white

- ruffled edge. Dark green, plain, glossy/
red back. **Semiminature**
- NESS' ELFIN MAGIC** (D. Ness) Semidouble fuchsia and white variable bell. Variegated. **Miniature**
- *NESS' FIREFLY** (7825) 12/30/92 (D. Ness) Semidouble fuchsia pansy/lighter edge. Dark green, plain, glossy/red back. **Semiminature**
- *NESS' FOGGY BLUES** (7826) 12/30/92 (D. Ness) Semidouble pale blue pansy/lighter edge. Medium green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- NESS' FOREVER BLUE** (D. Ness) Semidouble light blue star/white edge. Dark green, wavy. **Standard**
- NESS' FROSTED FRECKLES** (D. Ness) Double fuchsia fantasy/darker fantasy edge. Dark green, plain, scalloped. **Standard**
- NESS' GRAPE FIZZ** (D. Ness) Double purple/white edge. Dark green, pointed/red back. **Semiminature**
- NESS' LIL HOTSHOT** (D. Ness) Semidouble dusty fuchsia pansy/white tips, edge. Variegated medium green. **Semiminature**
- *NESS' PINK RIBBONS** (7827) 12/30/92 (D. Ness) Semidouble-double chimera white pansy/hot pink stripe. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- NESS' PRAIRIE STAR** (D. Ness) Semidouble fuchsia-red large ruffled star. Variegated dark green, cream and pink. **Standard**
- NESS' RED DANDY** (D. Ness) Semidouble-double dark red ruffled. Dark green, quilted, glossy/red back. **Small standard**
- NESS' SHEER PEACH** (D. Ness) Semidouble-double peach-pink. Medium green, plain. **Semiminature**
- NESS' SNOW CLOUDS** (D. Ness) Semidouble white large ruffled pansy/variable pale pink. Medium green, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**
- NESS' SPRECKLES** (D. Ness) Double fuchsia fantasy/darker fantasy edge. Medium green, serrated. **Miniature**
- *NESS' TWINKLE PINK** (7828) 12/30/92 (D. Ness) Double pink pansy. Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Semiminature**
- NESS' VIKING FROST** (D. Ness) Semidouble white pansy. Medium green, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**
- *NESS' WHITE BEAR** (7829) 12/30/92 (D. Ness) Semidouble white large star. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- *NESS' WINE MIST** (7830) 12/30/92 (D. Ness) Semidouble wine frilled pansy/darker top petals. Dark green, plain, glossy, scalloped. **Standard**
- *NEW PRAGUE** (7795) 9/9/92 (D. Harrington) Single pink and rose shaded/green edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**
- NORMA** (Volkmann) Light pink ruffled star. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

O

- *OCEAN EYES** (7780) 8/13/92 (M. Burns) Single-semidouble medium blue star/darker eye, white wavy edge, variable green. Medium-dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy/red back. **Large**
- *OLGA MAC LEAN** (7781) 8/25/92 (H. Bateson) Single-semidouble light pink star. Medium green, glossy, serrated. **Standard**
- *OPTIMARA BERLIN** (7912) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Semidouble blue star/white frilled edge. Medium green, ovate, glossy, hairy, wavy, serrated. **Large**
- *OPTIMARA HELSINKI** (7913) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Semidouble-double pink two-tone. Dark green, ovate, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Large**
- *OPTIMARA LITTLE AZTEC** (7914) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Semidouble purple-red. Dark green, ovate, hairy, serrated/red back. **Semiminature**
- *OPTIMARA LITTLE AZURITE** (7915) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Single purple-blue/thin white edge. Medium green, ovate, glossy, hairy, serrated/red back. **Miniature**
- *OPTIMARA LITTLE CHEYENNE** (7916) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Semidouble blue and white/blue center. Light green, ovate, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Semiminature**
- *OPTIMARA LITTLE COMANCHE** (7917) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Single purple-red. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy,

- hairy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***OPTIMARA LITTLE SHOSHONE** (7918) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Single light pink/darker center. Dark green, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***OPTIMARA LITTLE TURQUOISE** (7919) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Semidouble violet-blue. Medium green, ovate, glossy, hairy. **Miniature**
- ***OPTIMARA ROME** (7920) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Single burgundy. Medium green, ovate, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Large**
- ***OPTIMARA STOCKHOLM** (7921) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Single light blue star. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy. **Large**
- ***OPTIMARA TOKYO** (7922) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Single light pink/darker center. Medium green, ovate, glossy, hairy. **Large**
- ***OPTIMARA VIENNA** (7923) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) Single purple-blue. Medium green, ovate, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Large**
- OUI BEN N** (B. Elkin) Single lavender bell/wide white edge. Variegated medium green. **Miniature**

P

- PARADISE LOST** (S. Sorano) Semidouble light orchid large ruffled star/white wavy edge. Medium-dark green, wavy. **Standard**
- ***PAT CHAMPAGNE** (7084) 2/10/89 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble dark blue/white edge. TL variegated, ovate. **Semiminiature**
- ***PEACHY KID** (7865) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble peach. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- PEARLS 'N' RUBIES** (S. Sorano) Double white large pansy/variable fuchsia fluted edge. Medium green. **Standard**
- ***PERFECT TOGETHER** (7853) 3/6/93 (E. Wasche) Double white/thin dark blue ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**
- ***PETITE TOT** (7866) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble-double pink. Variegated green and white, plain. **Miniature**

- PETTICOATS 'N' BLUE** (S. Sorano) Semidouble royal blue star. Variegated medium green and white. **Standard**
- PHASE** (D. Croteau) Semidouble medium coral star. Dark green. **Large**
- PINK PET** (H. Pittman) Single vivid pink stickite/white tips. Black-green, glossy. **Miniature**
- ***PINK PHANTOM** (7909) 6/26/93 (F. Tinari) Semidouble medium pink/darker center, sparkle overlay. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- ***PINK PICTURESQUE** (7848) 1/15/93 (Eyerdom) Semidouble bright pink/wide white edge. Light green, plain, glossy. **Standard**
- PINK PIZAZZ** (H. Pittman) Semidouble vivid pink frilled. Variegated green, white and pink, glossy, wavy. **Semiminiature**
- PINK PIZAZZ** (S. Sorano) Double dark pink large/red-hot pink sparkle overlay, white frilled edge. Ruffled. **Standard**
- PINKY WINK** (S. Sorano) Double medium pink pansy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature trailer**
- PIXIE DUST** (S. Sorano) Double pink pansy. Variegated dark green, pink and white. **Miniature**
- PIXIE EYES** (S. Sorano) Single dark blue bell. Variegated dark green and white. **Miniature trailer**
- PIXIE RUNAROUND** (S. Sorano) Single white and blue bell. Variegated medium green and white. **Miniature trailer**
- PLAYFUL DREAMER** (S. Sorano/Blansit) Semidouble pink wavy pansy/ivory blush, yellow mottling. Black-green, plain. **Standard**
- ***PLEASANT BABY** (7797) 9/19/92 (J. Stokes) Double white/pink eye, edge. Light green, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- ***PLUM DE CREME** (7910) 6/26/93 (F. Tinari) Double purple-plum/white sparkle edge. Medium green, serrated. **Standard**
- POSH PURPLE** (I. Fredette) Single-semidouble purple large frilled pansy. Bright green, plain. **Standard**
- PRISSY PINK** (S. Sorano) Double medium pink pansy. Variegated dark green and

white. **Semiminiature**

***PRIVILEGED CLASS** (7854) 3/6/93 (E. Wasche) Double bright pink frilled. Medium green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

***PURPLE MAJESTY** (7816) 11/6/92 (S. Farnsworth) Semidouble chimera white large star/purple stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

PURPLE ROSETTE (L. Munk) Double purple wavy large. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

PYRO (D. Croteau) Semidouble red star. Dark green, round, quilted/red back. **Standard**

Q

***QUIET LAUGHTER** (7871) 5/17/93 (B. Elkin) Single-semidouble medium blue star/thin pale blue wavy edge. Medium green, plain, glossy/red back. **Standard**

R

RAINBOW'S AUTUMN MAGIC (R. Wasmund) Semidouble light red ruffled star/pink fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S BERRIED TREASURE (R. Wasmund) Single red large ruffled star/pink fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S BERRY DAZZLE (R. Wasmund) Double red large star/pink fantasy. Medium-dark green, serrated/red back. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S CHERRY SPLASH (R. Wasmund) Semidouble-double red large wavy star/pink fantasy, some near-black shading. Light-medium green, quilted. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S CHINA FROST (R. Wasmund) Semidouble medium pink ruffled star/white edge. Medium-dark green, plain. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S CORAL STORM (R. Wasmund) Semidouble coral-pink fantasy pansy. Variegated. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S DARK STORM (R. Wasmund) Semidouble purple star/fuchsia fantasy, some thin white edge. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S EMBER LACE (R. Was-

mund) Semidouble coral pansy/purple fantasy. Variegated. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S EPIC JOURNEY (R. Wasmund) Single-semidouble blue star/pink fantasy, thin white edge. Dark green, plain, scalloped. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S MIDNIGHT RAIN (R. Wasmund) Semidouble purple star/coral fantasy. Dark green, plain, scalloped. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S ORCHID SPLASH (R. Wasmund) Double lavender large star/darker marking. Medium green. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S PEEWEE DARLIN' (R. Wasmund) Semidouble pink pansy. Variegated medium green and white. **Miniature**

RAINBOW'S PEEWEE FIRELYTE (R. Wasmund) Semidouble red pansy. Variegated medium green and white. **Miniature**

RAINBOW'S PEEWEE SNOWFLAKES (R. Wasmund) Semidouble white pansy. Variegated medium green and white. **Miniature**

RAINBOW'S QUIET RIOT (R. Wasmund) Semidouble blue-purple large star/white fantasy. Dark green, round, scalloped. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S RED OCTOBER (R. Wasmund) Semidouble red large wavy star/pink fantasy. Medium-dark green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S SATIN FRILLS (R. Wasmund) Semidouble pink and white frilled pansy. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S SHOWBOAT (R. Wasmund) Pink large ruffled pansy/lavender fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S SNOW QUEEN (R. Wasmund) Semidouble white large frilled pansy/some red marking. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**

RAINBOW'S VODOO MAGIC (R. Wasmund) Semidouble dark red two-tone pansy/pink fantasy. Variegated, plain. **Standard**

RARE TAPESTRY (I. Fredette) Double pink, dark rose, and wine. Mosaic variegated dark green and pink. **Standard**

***REBEL'S CAROUSEL SPINNER** (7875) 6/1/93 (R. Bann) Single chimera pink

- pansy/purple stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**
- *REBEL'S FANTASY SPINNER** (7876) 6/1/93 (R. Bann) Single chimera pink frilled pansy/purple stripe, fantasy. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**
- *REBEL'S GINGHAM ELF** (7877) 6/1/93 (R. Bann) Single chimera light pink sticktite pansy/darker stripe. Dark green, quilted, glossy, serrated, girl foliage. **Semiminiature**
- *REBEL'S NORTH STAR** (7878) 6/1/93 (R. Bann) Semidouble white ruffled star. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**
- RED HONEY** (S. Sorano) Semidouble bright fuchsia pansy. Variegated. **Semiminiature**
- *RED MT. FUJI** (7812) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Kawakami) Single chimera bright rose pansy/dark fuchsia-red stripe. Dark green, plain, pointed, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- RED PEPPER** (E. Champion) Double vivid pink/red fantasy, edge. Mosaic variegated medium and light green. **Standard**
- *RHYTHM 'N' BLUES** (7840) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Single dark blue large star. Variegated dark green, white and pink, plain, glossy, wavy, scalloped. **Large**
- *RITA HILTON** (7904) 6/5/93 (J. Munk) Semidouble raspberry frilled pansy/darker shaded edge. Variegated medium green, white and pink, pointed/red back. **Standard**
- *ROB'S BLUEBERRY PATCHES** (7879) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble chimera light blue sticktite pansy/white stripe. Crown variegated medium green and white, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- *ROB'S BO PEEP** (7881) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble medium pink sticktite pansy/light green edge. Variegated medium-dark green and white, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- *ROB'S BOONDOGGLE** (7880) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark red sticktite star/wide white ruffled edge. Dark black-green, wavy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
- *ROB'S CLOUD NINE** (7882) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light pink sticktite frilled pansy/copper tips, shading. Crown variegated dark green and tan, pointed, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
- *ROB'S DIPSY DOODLE** (7883) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light rose sticktite pansy/darker tips. Dark green, pebbled, glossy, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- *ROB'S DOOHICKEY** (7884) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble medium mauve sticktite pansy. Olive green, plain. **Miniature**
- *ROB'S FLIM FLAM** (7885) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark red sticktite pansy/wide white frilled edge. Dark green, quilted, wavy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
- *ROB'S FUDDY DUDDY** (7886) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark mauve-purple sticktite pansy. Dark green, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- *ROB'S HEAT WAVE** (7887) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) semidouble light pink sticktite pansy/wide red frosted edge. Medium-dark green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- ROB'S HOKIE POKIE** (R. Robinson) Semidouble cream pansy/red edge. Variegated dark green, glossy. **Semiminiature**
- *ROB'S HOPSCOTCH** (7888) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark pink sticktite pansy/dark blue fantasy, wide dark red-purple frilled edge, some green tipped top petals. Medium-dark green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- *ROB'S HOT TAMALE** (7889) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Double dark red sticktite ruffled pansy. Dark green, pebbled, glossy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
- *ROB'S HUMMIN' BIRD** (7890) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Double lavender-pink sticktite pansy/cream-yellow eye. Medium-dark green, quilted, hairy, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- *ROB'S MAD CAT** (7891) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Double pink sticktite pansy/blue fantasy, dark red-purple ruffled edge. Dark green, serrated/red

- back. **Semiminiature**
- ***ROB'S MISS PRISS** (7892) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark salmon-pink sticktite pansy. Variegated dark green and white, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- ***ROB'S MONKEYSHINES** (7893) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Single chimera red-purple pansy/white stripe, blue fantasy. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- ***ROB'S MOUNTAIN ASH** (7894) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble bright blue sticktite pansy/bright pink fantasy. Variegated dark green, white and pink, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***ROB'S RED ROOSTER** (7895) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark smoky red sticktite star. Dark green, pointed, quilted, hairy, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- ***ROB'S STROBELIGHT** (7896) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Single chimera medium blue pansy/white stripe. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- ***ROB'S TAFFY PULL** (7897) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white sticktite pansy/red edge. Medium green, quilted, hairy. **Semiminiature**
- ***ROB'S TODDLE DOO** (7898) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Double white sticktite pansy/bright blue eye, shading. Medium green, quilted, glossy. **Semiminiature**
- ***ROB'S TWINKLE PINK** (7899) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark pink sticktite pansy. Dark green, pointed, glossy/red back. **Miniature**
- ***ROB'S WHATSIT** (7900) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white sticktite pansy/dark red edge. Medium green, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- ***ROB'S WHIPPOORWILL** (7901) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light pink sticktite pansy/darker shaded tips, edge. Crown variegated medium green and white, pointed, glossy. **Semiminiature**
- ***ROB'S WHODUNIT** (7902) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white sticktite pansy/bright red eye, variable thin red edge. Medium green, quilted, glossy. **Semiminiature**

- ***ROB'S ZERO GRAVITY** (7903) 6/2/93 (R. Robinson) Semidouble medium blue sticktite pansy/pink fantasy. Variegated dark green and white, pointed. **Miniature**
- RODEO BANDMASTER** (J. Munk) Double fuchsia-red frilled. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- RODEO BIGTIME** (J. Munk) Semidouble medium blue, frilled. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- RODEO BONANZA** (J. Munk) Double purple-black frilled. Black-green, plain. **Standard**
- RODEO CLOWN** (J. Munk) Purple/light pink fantasy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- RODEO COUNTRY** (J. Munk) Semidouble medium blue, frilled. Dark green, plain/red back. **Standard**
- RODEO DAZZLER** (J. Munk) Semidouble red. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- RODEO HOEDOWN** (J. Munk) Semidouble dark blue-purple frilled pansy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- RODEO JAMBOREE** (J. Munk) Double fuchsia-raspberry frilled. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- RODEO SHOWGIRL** (J. Munk) Semidouble vivid red, frilled. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- ***ROSE PICTURESQUE** (7849) 1/15/93 (Eyerdom) Semidouble bright red-orchid/white frilled edge. Medium green, plain, hairy, glossy, wavy. **Standard**
- ROSE QUEEN** (Volkmann) Double dark rose large ruffled star. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- ROSEDALE** (M. Burns) Single-semidouble light rose-pink frilled pansy/variable plum marking. Variegated dark green and rose, glossy, scalloped/red back. **Large**
- ROUGET** (D. Croteau) Semidouble red star/white edge. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***ROYAL BRIDE** (7850) 1/15/93 (Eyerdom) Semidouble vibrant purple/variable red center, white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy. **Standard**
- S**
- ***SANSOUCY' CANDIDE** (7766) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Semidouble pink ruffled.

- Dark green, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**
- *SANSOUCY' CELESTE** (7767) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Double blue/thin white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- *SANSOUCY' COCO** (7768) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Double blue ruffled/variable white-green edge. Variegated medium green, white and cream, plain, quilted. **Large**
- *SANSOUCY' COURTOISE** (7769) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Single-semidouble purple frilled. Variegated medium green and white, plain, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- *SANSOUCY' DELICATE** (7770) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Single white. Variegated medium green, pink and cream, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**
- *SANSOUCY' DISTINCTION** (7771) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Semidouble pink two-tone sticktite frilled star. Medium green, plain/red back. **Large**
- *SANSOUCY' FIDELLE** (7772) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Single light pink sticktite. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Large**
- *SANSOUCY' JULIE-MARIE** (7773) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Semidouble white sticktite star. Medium green, plain, quilted, serrated. **Large**
- *SANSOUCY' MODESTE** (7774) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Semidouble-double medium blue. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- *SANSOUCY' NATUREL** (7775) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Single-semidouble blue sticktite. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- *SANSOUCY' OLYMPE** (7776) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Single-semidouble blue ruffled star. Dark green, plain, serrated/red back. **Large**
- *SANSOUCY' SEREINE** (7777) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Single-semidouble white ruffled star. Dark green, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**
- *SANSOUCY' SPLENDIDE** (7778) 8/10/92 (P. Sansoucy) Semidouble pink ruffled. Dark green, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**
- SAPPHIRE EYES** (S. Sorano) Double dark blue pansy. Variegated dark green and white/red back. **Semiminiature**
- SARA ROSE** (Volkman) Single plum ruffled. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**
- SATIN CHARMER** (M. Burns) Single-semidouble vivid pink frilled star/blue fantasy. Variegated green, white and pink, heart-shaped. **Large**
- SATIN QUEEN** (Eyerdom) Semidouble purple-orchid/wide white edge. Plain. **Standard**
- SECRET LOVE** (I. Fredette) Double white and blue ruffled pansy. Medium green, plain, scalloped. **Standard**
- *SHIRLEY'S AMBER QUEEN** (7859) 5/5/93 (S. Reynolds) Double medium pink ruffled/dark rose on upper petals. Variegated dark green and cream, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**
- *SHIRLEY'S MY TRUDY** (7860) 5/5/93 (S. Reynolds) Double orchid/wine eye. Variegated dark green and pink, serrated/red back. **Miniature**
- SHY BLUE** (S. Sorano) Double light blue. Variegated dark green and white. **Semiminiature**
- *SIERRA AVALANCHE** (7818) 11/30/92 (D. Allen) Single-semidouble white sticktite. Light green, plain, quilted. **Large**
- *SIERRA WINDS** (7819) 11/30/92 (D. Allen) Single pink ruffled star. Medium green, ovate, quilted, wavy/red back. **Large**
- *SIGMA KAPPA** (7873) 5/28/93 (H. Pittman) Double white/pink, blue and lavender fantasy edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- SILVER SPARKLES** (S. Sorano) Double white large fluted star. Medium green. **Standard**
- SNOW QUEEN** (Volkman) Blue and white large star. Light green, plain. **Standard**
- *SNOW TIPS** (7764) 8/6/92 (N. Johnston) Semidouble dark lavender-fuchsia star/white tips. Variegated medium green and cream, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- *SOMETHING TO LOVE** (7765) 8/6/92 (N. Johnston) Semidouble dark pink-purple star/wide light pink ruffled edge. Variegated dark green, pink and cream, ovate, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**
- SPARKLE PRETTY** (M. Burns) Semi-

double-double vivid pink star/ruby fantasy, sparkle overlay. Variegated medium-dark green, white and pink, scalloped. **Large**

SPARKLEBERRY (E. Champion) Double red large/white ruffled edge. Crown variegated green and yellow. **Standard**

***SPECKLED BABY** (7798) 9/19/92 (J. Stokes) Double pink/blue fantasy. Medium green, quilted. **Miniature trailer**

***SPRING CROCUS** (7841) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Semidouble lavender fantasy/white edge. Medium green, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

STAR FOUNTAIN (I. Fredette) Single light pink large sticktite star/fantasy. Crown variegated medium-dark green, cream and pink. **Large**

STAR SPARKLER (M. Burns) Single-semidouble vivid pink star/blue fantasy, fuchsia frilled edge. Variegated dark green, white and pink, glossy. **Large**

STARMAKER (D. Croteau) Semidouble lavender star/light pink fantasy. Variegated dark green and pink/red back. **Standard**

STORMY SKIES (Eyerdom) Double red-purple/white-tinted ruffled edge. Wavy. **Standard**

***SUMMER RAIN** (7805) 10/1/92 (Armstrong/Domiano) Semidouble fuchsia pansy/pink edge. Variegated medium green and cream, plain. **Large**

SUNCOAST SERENDIPITY STRIPE (S. Williams) Single-semidouble bright pink wavy star/lavender stripe. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

SUNNY SALMON (E. Champion) Double salmon-coral. Crown variegated medium green and yellow, plain. **Standard**

SUNRISE (Volkman) Red wavy star/darker stripe. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

***SWEET CAROLINE** (7872) 5/18/93 (J. Boyer) Semidouble-double chimera red ruffled/white stripe. Medium green, ruffled. **Standard**

SYMMETRY IN BLUE (M. Burns) Double medium blue large frilled. Dark green, pointed. **Standard**

T

TEEN RAINBOW (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink and rose variable. Variegated. **Semiminiature**

TEEN SPIRIT (H. Pittman) Semidouble vivid lavender-rose. Variegated. **Semiminiature**

TEEN SURPRISE (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble pink sticktite. Variegated. **Semiminiature**

***TEEN SWEETHEART** (7867) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble medium blue/white edge. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***TENSIE'S TRAIL** (7868) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/blue marking. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature trailer**

***THE ALPS** (7813) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Sawara) Single-semidouble chimera white pansy/light blue stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

TINSEL TRINKET (E. Champion) Double light pink. Mosaic variegated medium green. **Semiminiature**

TOMORROW'S EMBER (J. Smith) Single-semidouble white star/vivid red eye. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

***TOPNOTCH** (7842) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Semidouble coral large ruffled star. Dark green, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Large**

***TOREADOR** (7911) 6/26/93 (F. Tinari) Semidouble violet-mauve/white-rayed top petals, variable edge. Medium green, heart-shaped. **Standard**

TRINKET BRIGHT EYES (E. Champion) Double dark pink/darker eye. Crown variegated green and tan. **Semiminiature**

TRINKET ROSITA (E. Champion) Double rose-pink. Mosaic variegated medium green. **Semiminiature**

TRINKET RUTH BABY (E. Champion) Double pink frilled. Crown variegated green and tan. **Semiminiature**

TRINKET TERRIFIC (E. Champion) Double medium pink. Mosaic variegated medium green. **Semiminiature**

TROPICANA (Volkman) White and red. Plain, quilted. **Standard**

V

***VAGABOND** (7869) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman)

Semidouble pink and fuchsia. Variegated medium green and white, plain.

Semiminiature

VANILLA (I. Fredette) Cream-white large star. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

VICTORIAN FANTASY (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera medium pink fluted star/blue stripe, fantasy marking. Medium green. **Standard**

VICTORIAN FLIRT (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera medium pink fluted star/white stripe, blue fantasy marking. Medium green. **Standard**

VICTORIAN LADY (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pink-rose fuchsia ruffled pansy. Variegated dark green, white and buff, ovate. **Standard**

VICTORIAN PARASOL (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera dark purple fluted star/white stripe, light purple overlay. Medium green, ruffled. **Standard**

VICTORIAN PETTICOATS (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera medium pink frilled pansy/white stripe. Medium green. **Standard**

VICTORIAN RIBBONS (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera red-wine purple ruffled pansy/white stripe. Variegated medium green and white. **Standard**

W

WHITE MAGIC (Volkmann) Semidouble white star. Light green, plain. **Miniature**

***WHITE RUFFLES** (7870) 5/13/93 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white ruffled. Variegated medium green and white, ruffled. **Semiminiature**

***WINE COUNTRY** (7790) 9/5/92 (M. Beeman) Single-semidouble wine ruffled pansy. Mosaic variegated dark green, rose and white, ovate, glossy, ruffled, scalloped. **Standard**

Y

***YOKI** (7814) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Shinohara) Semidouble purple-blue star/white band, green frilled edge. Dark green, quilted, glossy, frilled/red back. **Standard**

***YOUTH** (7843) 1/4/93 (G. Durand) Double pink star/dark blue fantasy, white edge. Medium green, glossy, scalloped. **Large**

***YUME-YOKI** (7815) 10/3/92 (Horikoshi/Shinohara) Double pale pink star/green frilled edge. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy/red back. **Large**

Z

***ZACA'S CHARMER** (7926) 7/16/93 (A. Stephens) Single white ruffled/lavender eye, tinged edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

***ZACA'S CHRISTA DANIELLE** (7927) 7/16/93 (A. Stephens) Double fuchsia-pink to plum shaded ruffled. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ZACA'S HAPPY BIRTHDAY** (7928) 7/16/93 (A. Stephens) Double pink to rose shaded/some frilled white edge. Variegated medium green and white, quilted. **Standard**

***ZACA'S MOSAIC** (7929) 7/16/93 (A. Stephens) Semidouble-double white star/red eye, some rays. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

ZELLA (Volkmann) Semidouble red wavy large. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

Notes



Interpretive Plant Arrangement — "Everglades National Park"
Blue ribbon winner exhibited by Kristen Breyer
Barrington Bloomers African Violet Society, Barrington, Illinois



In Search of New Violets



DR. JEFF SMITH
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana 47306

Did you know that African violets offer a wide choice in foliage types as well as in flower colors? In many cases, the leaf characteristics are inherited separately from the flowers. The table in this issue's column may be of help in breeding for specific leaf traits.

Dominant		Recessive
Girl Foliage	to	Boy Foliage
Ruffled Foliage	to	Plain Foliage
Holly Foliage	to	Plain Foliage
Plain Foliage	to	Spooned Foliage
Longifolia Shape	to	Rounded Shape
Watermelon Veins	to	Plain Veins
Red Backed Leaves	to	Green/Silver Backed Leaves

Q: How can you tell if a genetic trait is a dominant or a recessive?

A: A trait can be determined to be dominant or recessive by its behavior in a genetic cross and how it is inherited from one generation to the next.

A dominant trait is one that is always expressed if present. These traits are the easiest to work with because they are passed on to every generation without skipping.

A recessive trait can be hidden by the action of a dominant and will not always be expressed. They are more difficult to work with because they may skip generations and only careful records will show if a plant carries a recessive trait.

A dominant can be passed on

to the next generation by a single parent, but a recessive must be carried by both parents in order to be expressed in the next generation.

Q: Are there any books that list the dominant features and recessive features of African violets?

A: Many of the books written on African violets contain a short section on hybridizing and include a list of dominant and recessive traits. I have also been placing tables of these traits in this column. You might wish to refer to the past several issues of AVM to get the full list.

Q: Are there any traits in the species that you think may be worth while to breed into today's cultivars?

A: I think that there may be a

number of traits for consideration, especially for disease and pest resistance. Another good example might be the tendency that *Saintpaulia grandifolia* has to produce multiple flower stalks from each leaf. Can you imagine our cultivars producing twice as many flowers as they do now! I have tried to breed for this trait, but the first generation offspring had only a single bloom stalk per leaf. Perhaps multiple flower stalk formation is a recessive trait and further inbreeding will be necessary to get it expressed.

Q: Any suggestions for producing a really wide Geneva edge?

A: The Geneva edge trait is a genetic dominant, but does not express itself fully in every off-

spring. One way to get a wide Geneva edge is to pick parents that both have a good edge. Some of the offspring should inherit the trait from both parents and may have a wider edge than either parent because of the double dose.

Another possibility is to combine the Geneva edge with the white non-Geneva edge trait that some plants like 'Genessee Silhouette' show. This edge trait is recessive, but when combined with the Geneva edge, the offspring have a very nice white margin. It may take several crosses and generations, however, to get the necessary dominant and recessive traits together in the same plant.

Q: Is there any way to tell if a blossom is sterile or fertile?

A: The ultimate way is to try and make a cross on the blossom in question. If nothing happens, the flower may be sterile. If you get a seed pod, it is fertile.

Seriously, you will have the best results if the pollen flower has good prominent anthers (pollen sacs) that yield a yellow dust when broken open. If the anther is mushy, the flower is likely to be sterile. Fresh pollen is also best. Try using a flower that has been open only a day or two.

I recommend choosing a single or semidouble flower for the female parent because the pistils are better formed and are more likely to be fertile. The pistil flower must be older than the pollen flower and the stigma or tip of the pistil should be wet or shiny in appearance. The first open flower on the stalk is often the best as it is the largest (easiest to work with if your

hands are unsteady) and will have the best developed pistil.

Above all, keep trying. Some plants just seem to be more

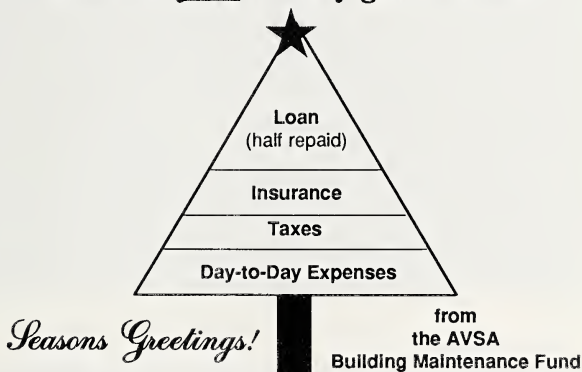
fertile than others, but if you persist, you should get some seed to set eventually.

Good Luck!

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

ANNE JANTZEN, *Chairman*
2725 Katrina Way
Mountain View, CA 94040

How will your holiday gift be used?



Contributions from June 1 - June 30, 1993 - *June, 1993*

AVS of Minnesota	\$25.00
Fort Worth AVS - in memory of Donald South	20.00
Don L. Thornburg, CA	15.00
Crosstown AVC, Madison, WI	10.00
Fort Walton Beach AVS, FL	10.00
Hiroko Ehdoh, Japan	2.40
AVS of Tucson	100.00
Mrs. J. T. Childers, Jr., SC - in memory of Mrs. W. C. Salters	25.00
Capital City AVS, CA	25.00
Bergen County AVS, NJ - in lieu of judging fees	10.00
Mrs. Jean Sweeting, Bahamas	25.00

Total for the month - \$267.40

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - \$85,267.25

Contributions from July 1 - July 31, 1993 - *July, 1993*

Don L. Thornburg, CA	\$15.00
First Lakeland AVS, FL - in memory of Andrew McVicker	25.00
Carole Scelsi, CA - in lieu of speaker's fee from Balboa Park AVS	10.00
AVC of Burlington County, NJ - in lieu of judges' expenses	
to Carolyn Shaw and Alice Easter	10.00
Yvonne and L. T. Ozio, LA - in lieu of speaker's fee from AVS of Beaumont	25.00
Potomac Council of AV Judges, VA	25.00
Unpredictable's AVS, MO	25.00
AVS of San Francisco - purchase of excess AVSA Library slides	10.00
Fran Russom, MO - in lieu of speaker's fee from Inner City AVS	15.00

Total for the month - \$160.00

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - \$85,427.25

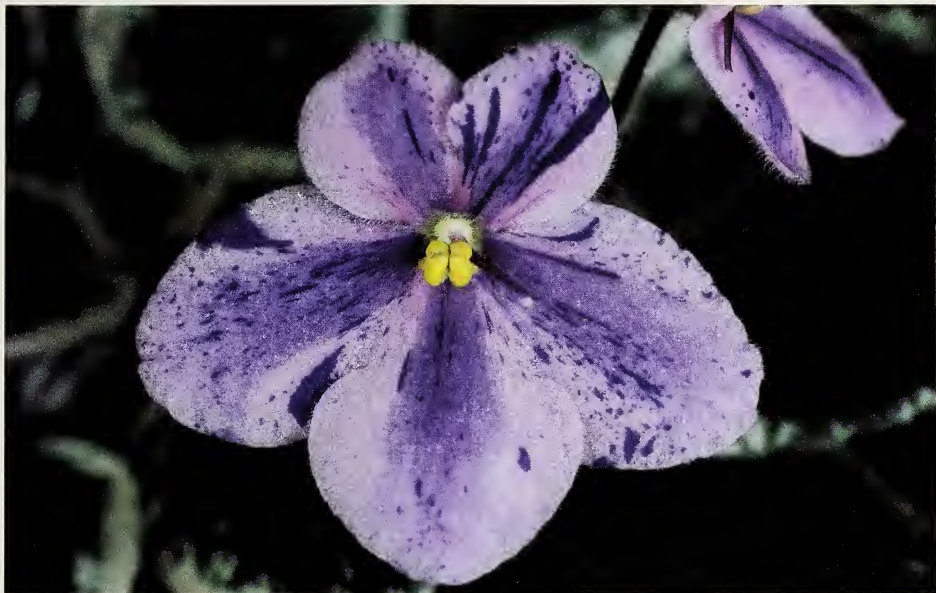


Glenna

Dolores Harrington, Fridley, Minnesota

Antonia





Party Toy

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Dolgeville, New York

Galactic Dancin





A FAMILY PORTRAIT

GEORGENE ALBRECHT
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Codonanthe devosiana 'Paula'

Codonanthe devosiana (koe-doe-NAN-thee dee-voe-SEE-ah-nah) variety named 'Paula' is our gesneriad portrait this issue. In Maurus' pronunciation guide the meaning of *codonanthe* is listed as "bell-flower." Those precious bells of waxy, snow white bells have a tinge of rosy pink on the petals and corolla. In listings, I noticed G.R.F. (Gesneriad Research Foundation) after the name, so it may have been collected or named by the

Florida-based organization.

The plant, grown in a three-inch pot, bloomed six inches below two fluorescent lights. Darryl James grows these to perfection using African violet culture and soil mix. When it grew long vines, I placed it on top of an inverted 4-inch pot. The leaves always face the light. They are about one-half to three-quarters long, thick and succulent, and covered with fine velvety hair. The stems are a warm brown as

are the undersides of the leaves.

Although my plant has not yet done so, they produce orange berries. It is in constant bloom with just 50% humidity. In their natural habitat, they have a symbiotic relationship with ants. There are nectaries on the lower leaf surfaces which entice the ants. In

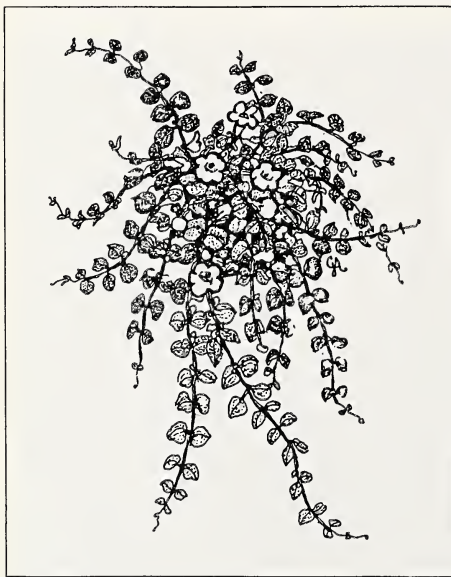
the lowland forests of southern Mexico and South America, the *Codonanthe* probably protect the airy anthills from being washed away during heavy rain. They do not seem to need much fertilization.

Reproduction is done by seed or cuttings. It is also easy to pin and root the vine to the top of the soil. The roots are very delicate and seem to stay close to the soil surface. As for the amount of light they need, perhaps a little more than African violets. If they do not bloom, they do not have enough light. In nature, they are on the forest floor beneath the tree canopy, where they have bright shade most of the time. Most of the gesneriad sources have several varieties listed in their catalogs.

CORRESPONDENCE

We want to clarify regulations regarding the showing of containerized gesneriads. Bill Foster confirms my notion that gesneriads are to be grown in the container. They are not to be grown in another pot and placed in a container covered with moss or vermiculite. It is not fair to other exhibitors who have spent months grooming a plant inside a terrarium.

At times, it is extremely



Codonanthe devosiana 'Paula'

difficult to remove a yellowing leaf or spent flower stem from a specimen plant of *Sinningia pusilla*. There are challenges with the humidity loving *Episcias* like 'Cleopatra.' It is difficult to keep the container clear and clean inside. The containers can be covered lightly so that, at show time, the judges can see the entire plant without condensation on the glass. Plastic wrap can be punctured with a pin so that it allows some air movement.

A gentleman from California wrote about his amusement while reading the ingredient "manure" in Marie Burns' soil mix. To my knowledge, pasteurized cow manure is available in most garden centers all over the country. Do not underestimate the value of organic fertilizers. The most beautiful garden I've ever seen was fertilized with aged manure "tea." Plants love it.

I've received more letters asking me about the value and use of diatomaceous earth as a pesticide. I have taken a poll at my local violet society, and few seem to use or recommend it. I do believe that if one has a severe infestation, DE will not eradicate the entire population. Resort to chemical use or take cuttings and discard the entire plant and soil ball. Some DE is completely useless because heat has taken the sharp edges away and it just will not cut the insect membranes. It must also be reapplied after soil is leached or top watered. I know that the DE I use works. I have used it outside and in potting soil. See if it will scratch a plastic bag.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

MARLENE BUCK
P. O. Box 38
Oreland, PA 19075

Contributors Please Note: When making a donation be sure to include the way you want your club's name listed in the AVM. Also, be sure and list the correct city and state where your club is located.

Donations received from May 20, 1993 through July 20, 1993.

Pikes Peak AVS	
Colorado Springs, CO	5.00
Quad City AVS, Davenport, IA	50.00
Gulf AVC, Cape Coral, FL	10.00
Wichita AVC, KS	15.00
Wichita AVC, KS in memory of Carrie Watterberry	20.00
Joy P. Brooks, Philadelphia, PA in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Margaret and Graydon Cass	10.00
Mid-Polk AVS, Lakeland, FL in memory of Lois Sanger, wife of Bob Sanger	10.00
Potomac Council of AV Judges, Fairfax, VA	25.00

AVSA Booster Fund

RUTH E. WARREN
P. O. Box 3664
Fall River, MA 02722

The AVSA thanks those who have contributed and supported the Booster Fund. Our efforts to provide needed equipment and furniture for the AVSA office is still our primary goal at this time.

Many local and state societies are experiencing declining memberships. We know that AVSA provides an excellent magazine and many of our affiliate societies also have interesting, informative newsletters and magazines for their members.

AVSA sponsored shows are well received and new memberships are attained this way. We need the support of all members, either by providing some service to your local, state or national organization, or by making a monetary contribution to the Booster Fund.

AVSA appreciates the efforts large or small of all members, as we endeavor to reach our goal.

Potomac Judges Council	25.00
Carol Wren	25.00
Windsor AVS	25.00

**Remember Denver
in 1994**



Ness' Frosted Freckles

Midland Violets, White Bear Lake, Minnesota

Ness' Satin Ruffles



The best of the best

1993 Best Varieties

FLOYD LAWSON
1100 Huntington Drive, #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

The 1993 Best Variety List is compiled from 10,277 votes sent in by over 700 members of AVSA. It is again obvious that the great number of beautiful violets that we have to choose from makes our choices more difficult each year. In fact, the total number of cultivars listed exceeded 2,800. These are the 26 varieties that 50 or more of you said were your favorites.

Thank you to every one who took time to respond, and to each who gave added encouragement along the way.

Here is your list. May each grow and bloom for you.

Number of Votes	Name of Cultivar	Registration No.	Hybridizer
173	Melodie Kimi	n/r	Sunnyside
159	Happy Cricket	5726	Hollada
143	Precious Pink	6025	H. Pittman
133	Granger's Wonderland	3419	Eyerdorn
124	Tomahawk	7269	K. Stork
102	Tiger	3433	I. Fredette
90	Snuggles	5018	L. Lyon
88	Pixie Blue	2598	L. Lyon
87	Nortex's Snowkist Haven	6046	B. Johnson
78	Mickey Mouse	n/r	Inpijn
74	Irish Flirt	7577	S. Sorano
72	Splendiferous	5813	S. Whitaker
69	Kiwi Dazzle	5888	Snell
57	The King	2698	M. Maas
56	French Lilac	2844	J. Swift
56	Amazing Grace	2688	Souls
55	Ming Blue	5823	Eyerdorn
54	Little Pro	6637	H. Pittman
53	Optimara Rose Quartz	6969	Holtkamp
53	Mark	3007	M. Maas
52	Dumplin'	3931	J. Swift
52	Optimara Harlequin	6947	Holtkamp
51	Optimara Alabama	6542	Holtkamp
51	Coral Kiss	6736	S. Sorano
50	Harbor Blue	6174	T. Weber
50	Dancin' Trail	5565	S. Sorano

Colorful Colorado

Perhaps it is the starkness of the long Colorado winters; the mounds of white which cover the mountainside, punctuated by the brilliant blue skies, the monotony broken by the blue-green of the Blue Spruce. Perhaps it is the fact that Colorado winters can be long. Whatever, come spring there is no question as to the colors of Colorado.

The first tease of spring will send winter-weary, cabin-fevered Coloradans to their nearby greenhouse or nursery in search of the first true signs of spring — the annuals. How quickly we forget that just as certain as we plant those first bedding plants in early April, we'll have snow in May. That never stopped anyone here from believing, though. True, some plants don't do well in Colorado's climate; and Colorado soil will certainly never win any blue ribbons; but, the combination of Colorado hot summer days, cool evenings and the mile high-plus altitude, and some man-made help with the rainfall, will produce an array of colors like no other.

Coloradans love their gardens. We love COLORS. What we may lack in exotic or variety, we more than make up for with colors that absolutely explode with vividness. Denver's Botanic Gardens is a gardener's delight year-round, but the spring and summer months catch the gardens at their peak. The Alpine Garden should be at its peak just in time for the 1994 AVSA

convention. Denver has one of the premier collections of water lilies of any city in the country, and the lilies are tended by volunteer members of the Water Lily Society. The rose gardens at City Park, just outside the Denver Museum of Natural History, are a rose lover's delight. The City of Boulder spends over \$23,000 for the flowerbeds that seem to crown each intersection in the city. Local TV stations, greenhouses and nurseries sponsor contests for the most beautiful garden, lawn, flowerbeds, etc. Competition is keen for the right to be called the "best Colorado gardener."

By late August, the flowerbeds that color the cityscape are at their prime. September's cooler nights will bring forth the pansies once again before their winter's rest; zinnias are stunning, as are asters and dahlias. By late September (unless we've had an early killing frost), the mums will still be colorful.

The colors of summer are also astounding in the mountains as spring thaw gives way to a multitude of wildflowers. Nothing catches the imagination more than a field of wildflowers gently waving in the breeze. Please remember that it is illegal to pick the wildflowers, particularly the columbine. Besides, they die immediately if they are picked. So, please, capture their brilliance with your camera, but leave them for the next group to enjoy.

One of the premier alpine gardens is the Betty Ford Alpine Garden in Vail. It boasts an excellent variety of native Colorado alpine vegetation. Surviving from season to season at altitudes above 10,000 feet is nothing short of a miracle. Be sure not to miss the guided tour of Rocky Mountain National Park as you learn firsthand about the vegetation of the park.

As colorful as the spring and summer gardens are, they pale in comparison to Colorado's September in the high country. Aspen gold is everywhere. It is an annual pilgrimage for city dwellers to drive through the high country to view the aspen. Above timberline in Rocky Mountain National Park, the tundra puts on its coat of oranges, rusts, reds and browns — one last fling before another long winter's rest.

Coloradans indeed love their parks and gardens. Denver has one of the premier park systems in the country. For all those settlers arriving in Colorado in the 1850s and 1860s, it was a bleak trip indeed across Kansas and eastern Colorado. Hardly a tree stood anywhere along the prairie to break the monotony of those hundreds of miles of nothingness. Prairie grass waved in the winds that seem to constantly whip across Kansas. By the time these settlers arrived in early Denver, they had seen enough bleakness. Almost from the outset of Denver's set-

tlement, parks played an important part in defining the city's character. Denver's first park - City Park - was acquired by the city in the 1880s, even though the lawns, trees and gardens weren't planted until some years later. One of the leaders in fur-

thering the development of Denver's park system was Robert Speer, mayor Denver for 10 years.

During his tenure, the city park system doubled, playgrounds and the Civic Center in downtown Denver were built.

Seventy-five years ago, Mayor Speer commented: "A city's beauty makes people love the place in which they live."

Come join us for the AVSA 1994 Denver convention/show and you'll see why we love Colorado.

Gift Giving Made Easy!

The holiday season brings thoughts of friendship and good will.

The beautiful spirit of Christmas surrounds us everywhere. It's a joyous time of year when we remember and select appropriate gifts for special people.

A unique gift that can save on shopping time and energy, is a year's subscription to our beautiful, colorful *AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE*.

It makes a lasting and appreciated gift for anyone who grows and enjoys African violets.

A gentle reminder, six times a year, to the recipient, that they have been thought of many times during the year.

The *AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE*, with its many color photographs of new and winning cultivars and designs from our annual African violet convention shows, its timely articles on African violets by experienced columnists, and regular features by qualified growers and hobbyists, make excellent reading.

One finds many valuable and helpful suggestions on growing and showing beautiful African violets in this pub-

lication.

Research reports are given in detail by professional individuals who are engaged in important work for our society, and advertisements display hard to find items to help in the growing and care of African violets.

Remember a "dear" relative or good friend by sending the holiday gift of a subscription to the beautiful *AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE*. It will bring revealing knowledge and pleasure that lasts a full year.

BE A "DEAR"
GIVE AN AVSA
MEMBERSHIP
THIS YEAR!

Send in your gift subscription of only \$15.00 each today to our office headquarters:

THE
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
OF AMERICA, INC.
(AVSA)

P. O. Box 3609
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Happy Holidays,
Anne Tinari
Membership & Promotion
Chairman



P. S. — Be sure and use our beautiful new 29¢ African violet stamp on all of your holiday mailings!

*Warmest
Holiday
Greetings
from
AVSA
to
all of you!*

CATCHING the public's ATTENTION —

some tips on publicizing your show

M. DIANE RICHARDSON
9207 Ravenwood Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21237

How much does your club spend for publicity? Under \$5 (10 to 17 letters), under \$20 (50 to 70 letters) or do you spend approximately \$100 to \$125 (80 letters to the media and 450 postcards to interested violet growers who attend each years' show)?

We hold violet shows to acquaint the public with our lovely plants, teach proper growing habits, and last but not least, make enough money for the club so they will be able to put on another show the following year.

If your organization is in the \$5 category don't expect a huge turnout.

I recently attended a function that was very poorly attended by the public. When asked how much publicity was done for the event, one of the members informed me that "17 letters were sent and we didn't get a response from any of them."

I wasn't surprised as my club sends out over 500 pieces of advertising and we don't always receive a response from the media.

What we do get though is over 1,000 people attending our show every year which equates to increased interest

in violets and tremendous plant sales that brings a great return to the club as well as income to the individual growers to put back into their hobby. Isn't that a lot of money to spend on publicity? Not when you consider that two good customers will cover the expense.

Remember the adage: It takes money to make money.

Can a list such as this be accumulated overnight?

No, but our list has been slowly increasing for the past five years.

Can your organization do the same? Of course.

In this age of computer science, first find the club member with a computer who is willing to put the entire list on diskettes that can be used year after year and simply updated.

A suggestion as to what kind of program to use: MyLabelMaker (approximately \$15 for the program).

This program uses continuous sheet labels which are one label wide (\$8 for 5,000 labels). When the program is run, blank labels are not wasted as they would be with full sheet labels. The program simply skips over the blank

spots.

A good place to start gathering media addresses is the phone book. Zip codes can be found at your local post office which has a central book listing codes by street.

To find names and addresses from surrounding cities and towns, speak to members of clubs from those areas.

An advertising media list pooled from each state would be wonderful. If all clubs had one, doing the advertising for a regional convention or for the AVSA annual convention would be easy.

Press Releases to the Media

Remember those old writing classes in high school?

The famous five W's? Where - When - Why - Who - and What. That's all they want to know.

Make it short and sweet. These are busy people who don't have time to read an epic.

They want something they can copy verbatim into a community calendar of events, not something that must be rewritten. On the next page is a sample:

Press Release

The ABC Violet Society, a non-profit organization, will hold their fifth annual flower show and sale on Friday, May 7, 1993, from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday, May 8, 1993, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event will be held at the Honeybear Mall located at 2300 Smith Avenue, just outside Wrightsville, New York.

This "free" event will have approximately 300 show plants on display as well as many varieties of sale plants to delight the public. Sale plants will be available from 9:30 a.m. on Friday. An educational booth will be manned throughout the show for questions and tips on raising better plants. The theme of this year's show will be "Violets on the Moon" and members will attempt to highlight the theme through various decorations and designs using violets in the show area.

For further information, please contact John Smith at AC 603-340-9486

The above information is for your calendar of events. We would appreciate any coverage you can give us to make this annual event a success.

Yours truly,
John Smith
Publicity Chairman
ABC Violet Society

The above letter will work well for all types of media — TV (public, cable and shopping network stations); radio, city-wide newspapers, small local community papers (excellent source of free feature articles) and magazines if you care to use them.

All of these have community calendars and/or Garden News sections. Quite often one of these will decide that covering the show would be a good TV or feature article event.

Another good source of coverage is the bulletin boards at the

public libraries. Just make sure you include that the event is sponsored by a "non-profit" organization.

Postcards sent to Interested Individuals

On the next page is a sample postcard sent to individuals interested in attending a yearly show. We have postcards printed each year for approximately \$16 for 500. It covers the basic 5 W's, costs 19 cents to mail and every year we see a great many people walk in clutching their card in their

hand.

How do you get a list such as this started? The "name" book is kept by the club treasurer who handles the proceeds from sale plants at shows. When paying for their purchases, each customer is asked if they would like to be notified for next year's show. The customer writes their name, address and phone number in the book. If interested in joining the club this is also listed along with requests for plants they would like to have so that we can get back to them.

ABC VIOLET SOCIETY

ABC will hold their 5th annual convention at the Honeybear Mall, 1300 Smith Avenue, Wrightsville, New York, on May 7, 1993, from 1 - 9 p.m. and on May 8 from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sale and show plants available for sale. For information call John Smith, AC 593-680-2857.

Magazine Advertising

Magazines require a minimum of four months advance notice in order to publish your event. Unless they have a calendar of events listed as part of their contents, we have found it is a waste to send to them.

After all, how many people in Southern California are interested in a violet show held in New York City?

Plant Magazines or Plant Society Advertising

Don't forget their publishing deadlines are strictly adhered to. Other plant societies to be included: AVS of Canada, AGGS, Saintpaulia International, GSN, Federated Garden Clubs, AVSA-AVM of course, and any regional society in your area.

Remember, many people who receive newsletters and magazines are not always members of violet organizations.

Updating Name Lists

Members are always giving me names of people they have met who are interested in growing violets and would like to be included. All mailings, regardless of postage, will be returned

to you if undeliverable as long as you include a return address. This is the easiest method of updating your list.

Timing

Magazines -

In accordance with their deadlines

General Media -

4 weeks prior to the show

Individual Postcards -

3 weeks prior to the show (so they don't have time to lose the notice, but far enough away to make plans to attend)

Final Thoughts

What was once thought of as a show position that didn't seem very large or important, has now become one of major consequence. Competition for the public's leisure time is now a factor that must be considered when planning an event. The fact that most of our shows are free to the public is a great selling feature that should be highlighted in media releases. The more people who come to see our shows, the more new members we will have, the more money our clubs will make so

that they can continue to exist and the more aware the general public will be that there are violet clubs all over the United States and around the world.

If you asked 50 people if they had ever heard of violet clubs, you'd be lucky if even one said yes.

Personally, I'd like to get that down to 1 in 25.



LENORA MUNK of Houston won Best in Show with *Apache Gem* and also was the winner of the 2nd Best AVSA Collection at a recent Spring Branch AVC show, "African Violets Say It With Music."

Violet Favorites

SYLVIA A. FARNUM, PhD
543 Quixote Ave. North
Lakeland, Minnesota 55043

As members of AVSA, we take our love for African violets for granted. But do we all admire the same traits in violets?

Why do we vote for certain varieties for the AVM favorite varieties list and pass over others?

Why do some cultivars become classics while others disappear?

Why do some of us favor one hybridizer while others prefer plants from a different hybridizer?

If you take a few minutes to prepare a written list of the characteristics that you like in individual plants, you will realize that the answers to the questions posed above are many.

Recently, I studied some of my plants carefully in an effort to determine desirable characteristics to be used to select parents for hybridization. The list that follows is the result.

I was surprised at how many traits there are to consider.

Since I am an amateur hybridizer, I am sure that there are factors that I missed.

Characteristics of Blossoms

color, clarity
multicolor, bi-color
fantasy patterns, dogwood dots, other color patterns
edge color, width of color band, "glittersweet" type, etc.

glitter on blossom under light
harmony of color of blossom stems with flowers
harmony of color blossoms with leaves
shape, pansy, star, wasp
double, single semidouble
form of edges - ruffled, wavy, plain
size of blossom
opening of blossom characteristics
number and prominence of anthers
length of time blossoms stay fresh
constancy of bloom
percent of blossoms true when started from leaves
number of blooms per plant
appearance of blossoms under different kinds of light
sticktight blossoms
appearance of past blossoms and blossoms that are starting to fade

Characteristics of Blossom Stems

strength of blossom stems
length of blossom stems
emergence of stems from beneath foliage without distorting plant rosette
upright or trailing blossom habit
contrast of blossom stems color with leaf color
do blossom stems bear leaflets?
do blossom stems last as long as blossoms?

Characteristics of Leaves

type - girl, boy
shape - round, pointed, ovate, spooned, longifolia
size - mini, semimini, standard
ruffled, wavy, quilted
color, intensity of color
variegation and type, mosaic, Tommie Lou
color of leaf back
surface of leaf - hairy, smooth, warty
leaf edge - scalloped, serrated, smooth
how fast do leaves root?
length of leaf petioles, color petioles

Overall Form and Performance

flat even growth - wheel
overall general appearance
amount of light needed for optimal performance
resistance to pests and mildew, rot, root rot
rate of growth
performance under natural and artificial lights
size of plant
care requirements
root development
appearance of neck
trailing, bush or creeping

After we have performed the intellectual exercise of preparing lists of desirable plant qualities, we find we are suddenly in awe of our hybridizers' skills in selecting crosses that have

improved our plants so much over the years.

Now that we have analyzed our likes and dislikes, we are nearly ready to choose our seed or pollen parents, to order new plants, or to purchase plants at a sales table.

But before we make our choices, our very real preferences must be considered.

How do we form these opinions and how do we express them?

One way is to attend African violet club meetings, visit homes, or shows, where violets are displayed.

We can also study growers' catalogs. As we view violets, we form opinions.

A second way is to listen to the comments of our fellow violet-eers.

The following comments are random samples of these comments:

Overheard: (If you are the person I overheard make these comments, please accept my apologies in advance!)

At our club mini show while practice judging:

"That plant *should* receive 15 extra points, after all, it is red!"

During the AVSA 47th Convention luncheon:

"I am easy to please, I only like the traditional blue and purple plants."

In the Commercial Plant Sales Room:

"I like anything that makes people say — What is that?"

Near the Show Tables:

"I never have any trouble growing minis since I started wicking them."

Somewhere:

"I can't explain what I like, but I know it when I see it!"

Near the Show Tables:

"These two plants have the same name, why are they completely different?"

In the Commercial Sales Room:

"Why is it that I can never find a good white?"

At a Club Meeting before leaving for National Show:

"Buy me a few good plants at the AVSA convention - you know what I like."

20 years ago from a Club Member:

"I just love pink - I can't resist the pale lovely colors."

About 18 years ago at a club meeting on our first visit of Winston Smith's Wranglers grown by a member:

"Oooh .. !! Fantastic .. !! Totally new!! Are they violets??
OOOoh .. !!!

These recollections remind us of the wonder we feel as we grow our violets.

How will I ever select plants that will become "violet favorites"?

Somehow, I know that I will be attracted to the newest shades of red, especially to the standard sized plants with star-shaped blossoms with contrasting edge colors.

What will be *your* choices for violet favorites?

Attention:

All AVSA

Affiliates and Commercials

with 2/28 membership expiration date

Your renewal notices will be mailed in November. Please help us by sending in your renewals EARLY — BEFORE convention registration begins. Thank you.

Orange County (CA) AVS tries a "taste" of African violets ... bloom jelly that is!

Orange County African Violet Society in Southern California had another board meeting at the home of the President, Ed Hoefer.

After all the business was completed, the members were invited into the dining room. The room was ablaze with candlelight. The table was laden with homemade chocolate eclairs, English raspberry trifle, honey nut cookies — and jelly?

What is jelly doing on the table near the nuts and

mints?

Ed informed the board that it was not "just" jelly — this was African violet bloom jelly!

It all happened after their last AVSA judged show. Ed saved the violet blooms and made this special jelly.

It seemed all were willing to taste it.

Iris Keating was the first to be served a small, plain cracker and — the jelly!

The room became silent, waiting for Iris' reaction.

"It's delicious, I love it," Iris

exclaimed.

Then everyone wanted a taste.

African violet bloom jelly made the evening a success and we are waiting to hear that the jelly won a blue ribbon at the Orange County Fair.

The recipe was given to the OCAVS members and now they would like to share it with the African violet world.

Happy Holidays from the Orange County African Violet Society!

African Violet Bloom Jelly

1 qt African violet blooms
boiling water
3 tablespoons lemon juice
1 package "Sure-Jel"
4 cups sugar

1. Pour boiling water over blooms to cover, and let sit overnight.

2. Strain off 2 cups of liquid

3. Add lemon juice and "Sure-Jel" to violet liquid.

4. Bring liquid to full boil, remove from heat, add sugar.

5. Put back on heat and cook 1 minute at a rolling boil.

6. Pour into sterilized jars and seal.



IRIS KEATING (center, holding jar of jelly) and other members of the Orange County (CA) AVS are shown being served the African Violet Bloom Jelly by the Inventor, Ed Hoefer.

Use of a Protoplast Regeneration System for African Violet Improvement

TRAUD WINKELMANN

Institute for Breeding Ornamental Species, Ahrensburg, Germany

Introduction

Since African violet growing began in Germany in 1893, breeders have improved this species in many ways. Vegetative habit, time to flowering, and flower retention have been al-

tered. In addition, a wide spectrum of flower colors, patterns, and shapes is available in the modern African violet. This was done mainly by making crosses and subsequently selecting the desirable seedlings. Traditional

breeding methods are limited by the range of species which can be combined, and certain desirable features, particularly the introduction of true red and yellow flowering plants, has not been achieved (the Blansit violets appear to be an exception).

Research demonstrating that African violets could be propagated easily *in vitro* under sterile conditions has opened new ways for increasing genetic variability through biotechnology (Start and Cumming, 1976; Grunewaldt, 1977). Some of these techniques require that plants be regenerated from protoplasts (naked cells without cell walls) rather than from leaf tissue. Before being able to use methods like direct DNA transfer into protoplasts or fusion of protoplasts of otherwise incompatible species (*Saintpaulia* and *Episcia*, for example) it is necessary to develop a reliable method for obtaining whole plants from protoplasts. The aim of our research was to establish such a protoplast regeneration system for African violets.

Isolation of Protoplasts, Protoplast Culture, and Plant Regeneration

Protoplasts can be released from plant tissue by one of two methods. The first method involves mechanically isolating the naked cells by dissection or rupture of the cell walls (Bilkey and Cocking, 1982). The more common method involves treating the plant tissue with en-

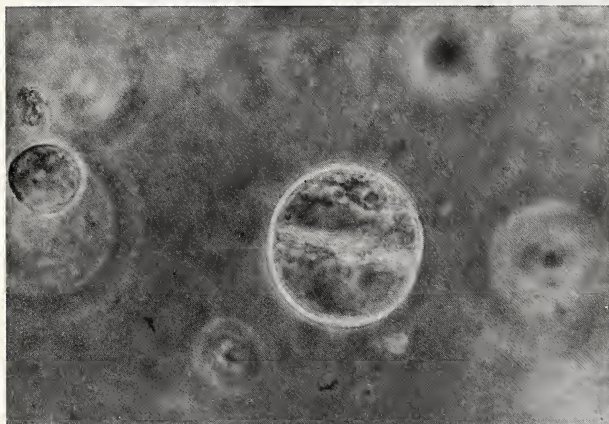


Figure 1. Division of a protoplast derived cell after nine days of culture.

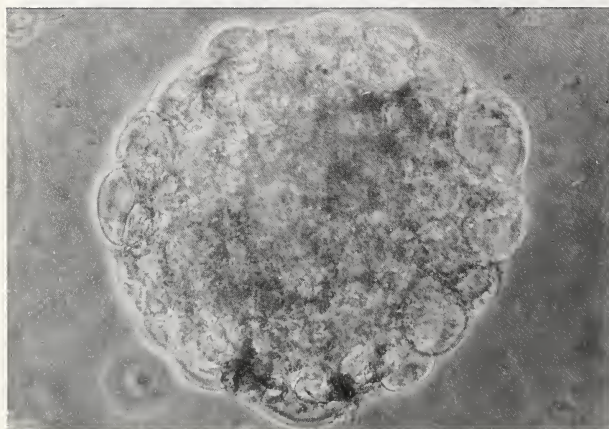


Figure 2. Protoplast derived microcallus 4 weeks after isolation.

zymes that digest the cell wall material. For our work we used a combination of three enzymes: 0.5% macerozyme, a pectinase, to dissolve the tissue; and, 2% cellulase R10 and 0.1% driselase, two cellulases, to dissolve the cell walls (Winkelmann and Grunewaldt, 1992).

The starting plant material employed for a source of protoplasts proved to be very important for successful regeneration. Only when young shoots from tissue culture were used as the starting material were plants able to be regenerated from protoplasts.

After removing the enzymes by centrifugation, the protoplasts were embedded in alginate. Protoplasts plated in liquid or in a medium solidified with agarose did not develop. The successful medium contained macro- and micronutrients, organic acids, vitamins, and high concentrations of different sugars to stabilize the naked protoplasts until the cell walls reformed. Cell walls were formed and the cells began to divide after eight to 10 days of growth in the dark (see Figure 1). The medium also contained two plant growth regulators: 1 mg/liter naphthaleneacetic acid (an auxin); and, 1 mg/liter benzyladenine (a cytokinin). The complete details of the protoplast culture procedure can be found in the reference by Winkelmann and Grunewaldt (1992).

After 14 days growth on the initial culture medium, the osmotic strength and the concentration of growth regulators was reduced. The osmotic strength was reduced again 10 days later. Then, after about



Figure 3. Shoot regeneration on a protoplast derived callus.

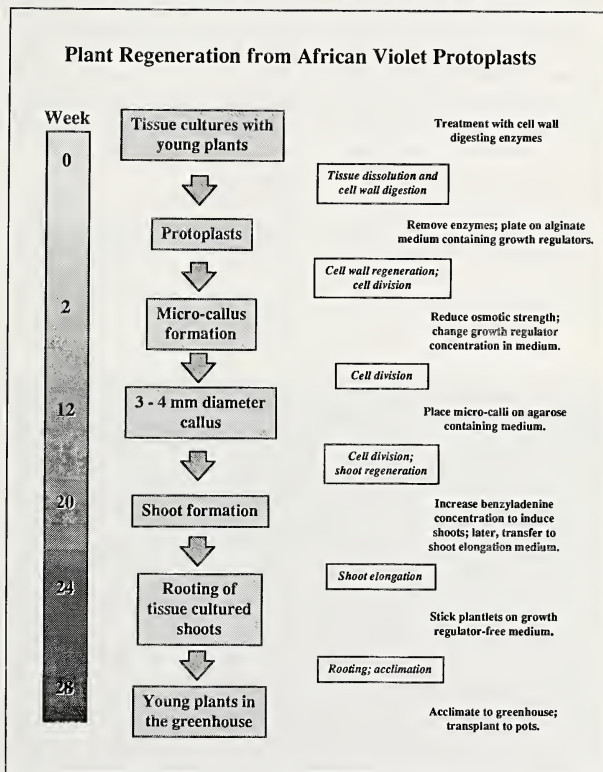


Figure 4. African violet protoplast regeneration protocol.

four weeks of culture, small clumps of unorganized cells, or calli, could be removed and plated on a medium solidified with agarose (see Figure 2). These calli were grown in the dark until they reached a size of 3 to 4 mm in diameter, and then, they were transferred to a medium containing 2 mg/liter benzyladenine to induce plant formation.

As soon as the young plants were visible under a stereomicroscope, the cultures were moved to the light and placed on a shoot elongation medium (see Figure 3). The number of plants per callus varied, ranging between 5 and 50. These plants rooted easily and could be grown on in the greenhouse with few losses. The scheme presented in Figure 4 summarizes the process from protoplast isolation to growth of the plants in the greenhouse.

Different cultivars of African violet responded differently in this system. Four of five of the cultivars (from Fischer Company, Hannover-Isernhagen,

Germany) we tested produced plants from protoplasts. Plants were regenerated from protoplasts of the cultivars 'Heidrun hell,' 'Sarosa,' 'Gracia,' and 'Rokoko rosa.' Protoplasts of the cultivar 'Blanca' produced callus, but the callus died before shoots were formed.

More than 2,000 plants have been transferred to the greenhouse. These are growing vigorously, and appear to be uniform (see Figure 5). A few plants showed chlorophyll deficiencies (either albino or with variegated leaves), and some appear to be polyploid with thick, succulent leaves and peduncles. Chromosome counts will determine whether these are really polyploid. In total, about 95% of the plants appeared to be true to cultivar, indicating that this regeneration technique is a stable one.

Applications for

African Violet Improvement

Protoplasts are useful in genetic manipulations because they do not have cell walls. They are ideal targets for taking up

naked DNA and for fusing with protoplasts of other related species. In the related genus, *Episcia*, some species and selections have true yellow and red flowers. We have applied successfully our procedure for plant regeneration from African violet protoplasts to protoplasts of *Episcia cupreata* 'Tropical Topaz' (Winkelmann and Grunewaldt, 1993). As was suggested by Bilkey and McCown (1978), protoplast fusion between African violet and *Episcia* may lead to the production of new flower colors which have not been possible because of genetic barriers. Research toward this goal is now in progress.

Acknowledgments

The experiments reported here are part of the Ph. D. thesis of T. Winkelmann, which was supported by the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology (BMFT, Bonn) and Fischer Company (Hannover-Isernhagen). The author would like to thank Prof. R. D. Lineberger for his critical review of the manuscript.

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Figure 5. Plants regenerated from protoplasts in the greenhouse.

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How do you read your copy of the AVM? If you are like most people, you check out the color photos, go to the back and read the advertisements, then start at the beginning and go through the articles. At the 1993 Lancaster Convention, the Board of Directors made many sweeping changes in policy for advertising in the *African Violet Magazine*, making advertising easier for our commercial membership, and also making it possible for a great many others to let us know about their new products.

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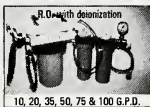
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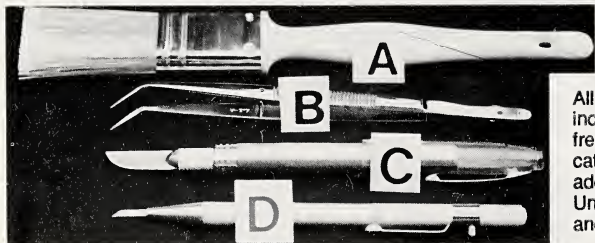
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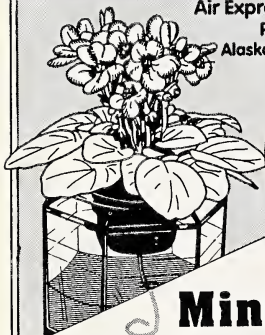
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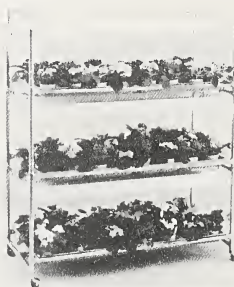
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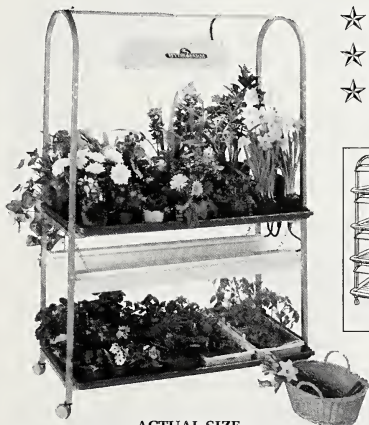
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3	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.80	3.30	7.50	13.50	57.50
3-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT or SQ	2.10	3.75	8.50	15.50	67.50
4	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.50	4.50	10.00	18.00	78.00
4-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.70	5.00	11.00	20.00	88.00
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"Growing African Violets in Southern Africa" by Joan Halford. A fascinating basic manual promoting every facet of home or greenhouse growing. Contains 33 color photos, over 100 vivid illustrations displaying how to propagate cuttings, hybridize and grow seed. Shown are leaf and blossom types, pests and eradication methods. Texas Potting and capillary matting, feeding, watering and humidity requirements. An excellent glossary and index provide continuity and fundamentals for success. **\$15.95 ppd.**

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4-TRAY LITE STAND ... Fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing. They are easy to assemble with a screwdriver. These stands are sturdy, yet attractive. The unit comes complete with four plastic tan trays and four double light fixtures with Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with the new slide adjustment. Overall size 70" high x 26" length x 12" depth. Shipped by UPS prepaid. 4-Tray Lite Stand Aluminum finish **\$279.00 ppd.** 4-Tray Lite Stand Brown finish **\$295.00 ppd.**

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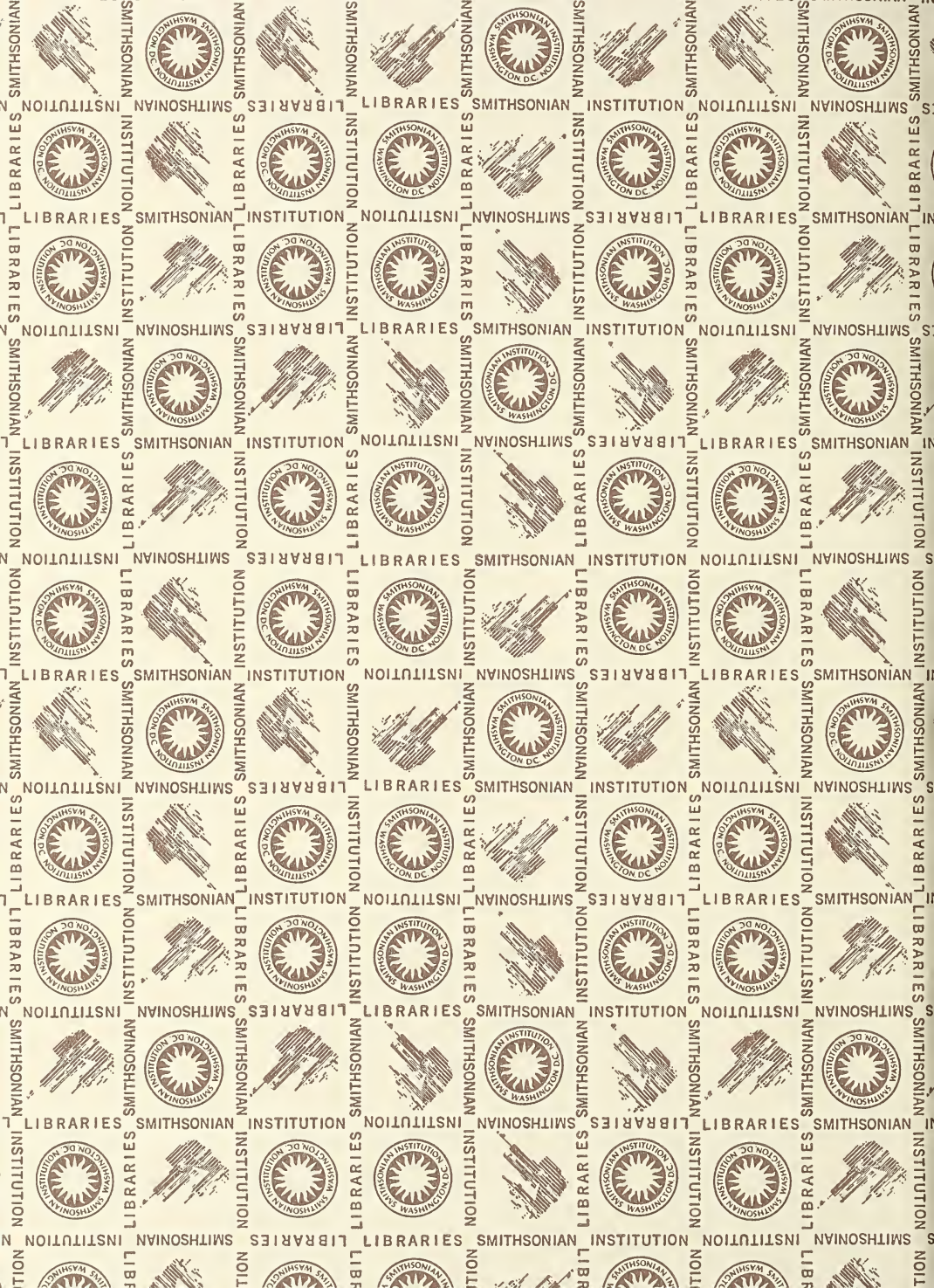


G22A ... COMPACT LITE STAND - 2-Shelf stand is fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing, easily assembled. This stand is a sturdy, attractive propagating unit. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with new slide adjustment. Complete with trays, fixtures and 2-20 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. Overall size 40" high, 27" long, 12" deep. Shipped prepaid via UPS **\$149.00**



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